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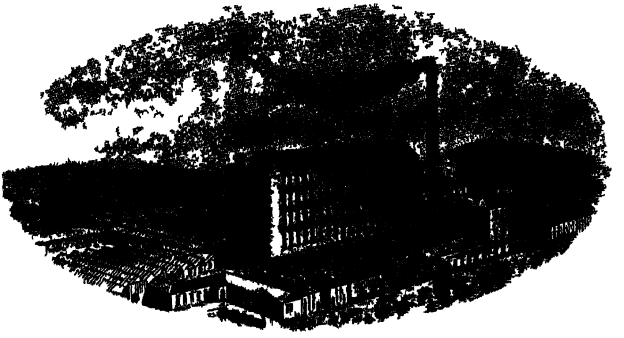
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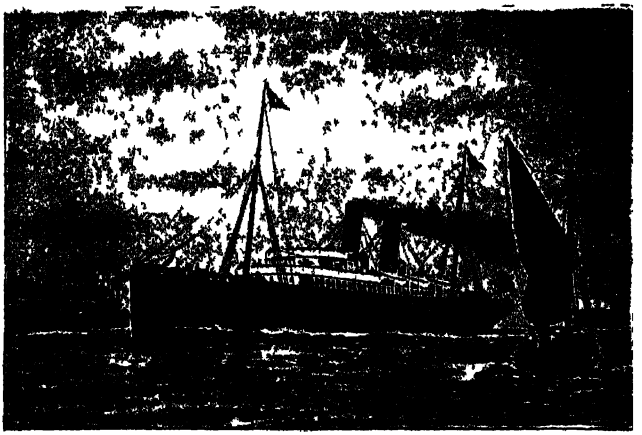
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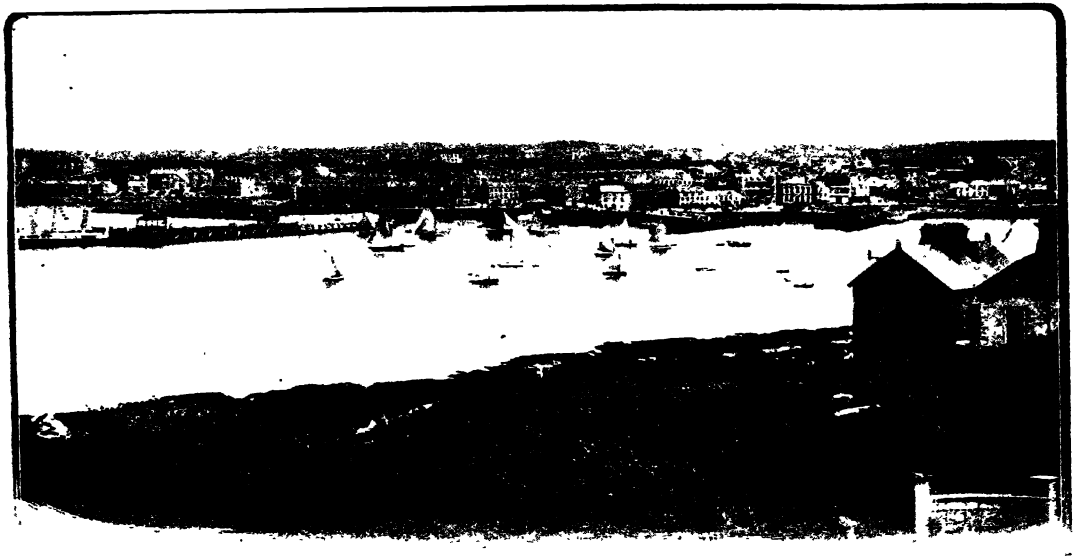
OFFICIAL GUIDE

TO

COUNTY DOWN

AND THE

MOURNE MOUNTAINS.



BANGOR BAY FROM PRINCETOWN.
Welch's Irish Views.

Belfast and County Down Railway Company.

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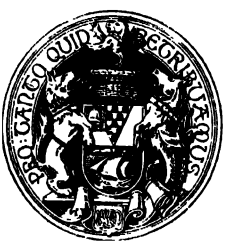
MOURNE MOUNTAINS.

BY

ROBERT LLOYD PRAEGER, B.A., B.E., M.R.I.A.

WITH SEVENTY PHOTOGRAPHS OF SCENERY
BY R. WELCH, BELFAST,
MAPS, AND OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS.

Second Edition, Revised.



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PREFACE.

THIS GUIDE-BOOK to the beautiful and interesting district served by the Belfast and County Down Railway lays no claim to originality, but it claims what is more important in a work of the kind—continued reference to the best authorities on the subjects touched on, whether statistics, history, archæology, sports and pastimes, or natural history. This, coupled with an intimate acquaintance with the County on the part of the author, has resulted, it is hoped, in making the book a full and accurate Guide.

The district herein described lies eastward of a line drawn from Belfast through Dromara to Warrenpoint; on all other sides it is bounded by the sea. This area lies wholly in the County of Down, of which it includes about two-thirds. The remaining third, which is not described in detail, comprises the inland north-western side of Down.

The author's best thanks are due to many friends who have assisted him in ways too numerous to specify. His acknowledgments are especially due to P. W. Joyce, LL.D., M.R.I.A.; W. H. Patterson, M.R.I.A.; and F. J. Bigger, M.R.I.A., for valuable suggestions.

R. Ll. P.

DUBLIN, *April*, 1900.

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I.

County Down

DESCRIPTION.—DOWN is one of the nine counties which form the Province of Ulster. The County of Antrim adjoins it on the north. On the west lies the County of Armagh, and for a few miles in the south-west it is fronted by County Louth, the most northerly portion of the Province of Leinster. On the east and south stretch the North Channel and Irish Sea. The greatest length of the county, from Cranfield Point in the south to Donaghadee in the north, is 49 miles; and its breadth, from Lisburn on the west to Ardglass on the east, 25 miles. The area of the county is 957 square miles; and its population, according to the census of 1891, 267,059. The coast-line is varied and extensive, on account of several deep and important inlets. On the north, Belfast Lough, one of the finest harbours of refuge in the three kingdoms, separates Down from Antrim. The land-locked lough of Strangford, 20 miles in length, and filled with a myriad of islets, lies wholly in the county, as do also the Outer and Inner Bays of Dundrum; and in the south the beautiful lough of Carlingford separates Down from Louth, and forms the boundary of Ulster. The coast-line of Down, from Belfast to below Newry, measures over 200 miles. The surface of the county is in general undulating and fertile, consisting of innumerable rolling hillocks of small elevation, often embosoming clear lakelets; and between the hillocks are little valleys, with glancing streams and green copses. The curious appearance of these rounded hillocks has caused the surface of the county to be likened to that of a basket of eggs. Low-level bogs are very few; and drainage has converted into rich meadow-land many swamps that formerly were tenanted by only the Coot and the Snipe.

In the centre of the county the ground rises, and a series of heathery rocky hills culminates in Slieve Croob (1,755 feet). Separated from Slieve Croob by a fertile valley, the grand range of the Mourne Mountains occupies the southern end of the county, stretching across from Newcastle on the east to Rostrevor on the west, and at each extremity descending steeply into the sea.

According to the agricultural statistics for 1898 and 1899, issued by the Board of Trade, 86·7 per cent. of the surface of County Down is returned as under crops, pasture, or woods in 1898. This large percentage of the area is almost entirely under either crops or pasturage, and is divided nearly equally between these two. The principal crops of the county are oats, hay, potatoes, turnips, wheat, and flax, in the order named; in 1899 the areas under these crops, in the same order, were, roughly speaking, 97, 63, 43, 20, 9, and 6 thousand acres. The scarcity of peat in the county is well shown by the fact that only ·4 per cent. of the total surface is returned as turf-bog; but this figure does not include mountain bogs. In the percentage of surface under crops, Down is excelled in Ireland only by the adjoining county of Armagh. Most of the holdings are small, and the innumerable rounded hillocks which form so great a part of the surface of the county are thickly studded with the whitewashed thatched cottages of the farmers.

The chief rivers of the county are the Lagan (*lagán*, a shallow valley), which rises on Slieve Croob and flows in a north-westerly direction to near Moira. There it turns north-east, and forms the boundary between Down and Antrim from the latter place to Belfast, where it debouches into Belfast Lough. The Quoile (*cuaille*, a pole or stake), which flows past Downpatrick and through a wide island-studded estuary into Strangford Lough, is made up of several streams that rise in the centre of the county. The northern slopes of the Mourne Mountains are the headwaters of the Bann, which flows through the western

portion of the county into Lough Neagh, on its long course of 97 miles to the northern ocean. All round the Mourne Mountains are delightful streams, descending in foaming cascades from the high grounds, to meander through shady woods and rocky glens down to the sea. For a short distance—only a mile—in the north-west, Co. Down borders Lough Neagh, the largest lake in the British Isles. Numerous small lakes are scattered over the county, and much enhance the beauty of the scenery.

Belfast, the metropolis of Ulster and the commercial capital of Ireland, is situated mainly on the Antrim bank of the mouth of the river Lagan; the large portion called Ballymacarrett lies in Co. Down. The more important towns of the county are Holywood, Bangor, Comber, Newtownards, Donaghadee, Ballynahinch, Downpatrick, Killyleagh, and Portaferry, which lie in the eastern and central portions of the county, and are served by the Belfast and County Down Railway and its several branches; and Gilford, Banbridge, Newry, and Warrenpoint, which lie to the westward, on branches of the Great Northern (Ireland) line. The county town is Downpatrick, which has been an important centre from the earliest times.

HISTORY.—Myth and tradition seldom fail to speak where history is silent; and thus we learn from bardic legends that Ireland was first peopled by Ceasair, granddaughter of Noah, who came hither before the deluge, and alone of her company survived that catastrophe. References to the early history of the district may be culled from the *Annals of the Four Masters*, that invaluable chronological compilation of tradition and fact which Brother Michael O'Clery and his three associates industriously gathered together and wrote down in the retirement of the monastery of Donegal, in the years 1632–1636. Here we read of invasions of the country by peoples whose origin is lost in the mists of obscurity. The first of these is recorded as having taken place in *Anno Mundi*

2520 (2680 B.C.), when Parthalon and his people arrived at the mouth of the Erne from Greece. One of the sons of this chief, Slainge by name, is stated to have been buried on the summit of Slieve Donard; and this mountain was, in consequence, for many centuries after, known by the name of Slieve Slainge or Slanga—Slainge's Mountain. Then came the Nemedians, and the Fomorians, a seafaring people, and after them the Firbolgs (A.M. 3266), who were followed fifty years later by the Dedannans, who in their turn gave way before the Milesians (A.M. 3500); and many were the fierce battles fought between the several invading races. Early in the Christian era, we find the powerful tribe of the Dal Fiatach holding Co. Down, having their head-quarters in the great dun or fort of Downpatrick, which had been founded about the beginning of the Christian era by Celtchair, a chieftain of the great Clanna Rury. The Dal Fiatach waxed in importance, and became the leading tribe of Ulster, and remained so for many centuries. This tribe furnished the "last king of Ulster," as Rudhraighe MacDonnsleibhe (Rury MacDonlevy) is called in the *Annals of Inisfallen;* he was slain by John de Courcy in 1177 A.D. In A.D. 332 the powerful tribe of the Dal Araidhe, whose stronghold was the great fort of Eamhain Macha, or Emania, two miles west of Armagh, was driven eastward by the chieftains known as "the three Collas"; the defeated tribe established a new stronghold in Southern Antrim — the great fort of Rathmore of Moy-linne, which may be seen two miles to the eastward of the town of Antrim; and Eastern Ulster was thenceforward named after this tribe, Dalaradia —not to be confounded with Dalriada, as Northern Antrim was then designated. From these two tribes, the Dal Fiatach and the Dal Araidhe, are sprung many of the families which, until a couple of centuries ago, held sway in Down and Antrim.

In 432 A.D., St. Patrick landed near Downpatrick.

He had spent some years of his youth as a slave at Sliabh Mis (now Slemish), in the adjoining county of Antrim, whence he escaped to the continent, to return to Ireland as a missionary. He preached to the lord of soil, Dichu, and his people, in a barn granted for the purpose. On this spot a church was afterwards erected, and the site of the ancient abbey of Saul still commemorates, by its position and by its name (*sabhal*, a barn), the first introduction of Christianity to Ireland. The saint was at Saul thirty-three years later, when he was seized with his last illness; and he was buried in the year 465 at Downpatrick, where, in after years, the relics of St. Brigid and St. Columba, two of the most illustrious of his successors, were also laid.

From the ninth to the eleventh centuries the Down coast was subject, like much of the Irish seaboard, to the forays of the Norsemen. On Strangford Lough—then Lough Cuan—they appear to have established a permanent fleet, and from that safe harbour sallied forth to harry the adjoining coasts, and pillage the towns and monasteries: among the religious establishments which they raided was the great abbey of Bangor.

1177 A.D. witnessed the first appearance of the Anglo-Normans in the county. In that year John de Courcy, with twenty-two knights, some 300 archers, and their followers, making in all about 1,000 men, set out from Dublin on his daring raid to conquer Ulster. It was still winter when they sallied forth, but by a forced march they traversed the distance (some hundred miles) so rapidly as to burst upon Down upon the fourth day, and to sieze it by a *coup-de-main*. The Irish, stunned by the suddenness of the blow, fled, carrying their king, MacDonlevy, with them, and the adventurers were at length revelling in plunder. Cardinal Vivian now appeared upon the scene, and endeavoured, but in vain, to restore peace. The men of Ulster, thirsting for revenge, soon rallied, and, headed by their king, made a desperate effort to recover their stronghold. De

Courcy sallied forth to meet them in the open, and swept them before him in headlong rout. The horses and steel armour of the Norman men-at-arms, and the cloth-yard arrows of their bowmen, were more than a match against any odds of the half-naked Irish kernes.



MONEY COINED BY DE COURCY AT DOWNPATRICK, END OF 12TH CENTURY.

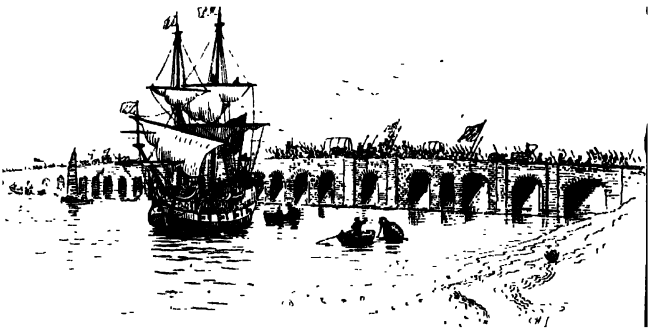
Soon De Courcy had overrun both Down and Antrim, and he protected his newly acquired possessions with a chain of castles. After the death of Henry III. and the accession of Richard, De Courcy appears to have refused to recognise the new sovereign. Hugh de Lacy was despatched to arrest him, and, beating him twice out of Down, he took him prisoner. Obtaining his freedom, De Courcy attempted to recover his lost estates with the aid of his brother-in-law, Ragnvald, king of Man; but De Lacy scattered their host in utter rout, and De Courcy was arrested at Downpatrick, and Ireland knew him no more. Ulster, however, did not gain much by his downfall, for De Lacy soon returned, and extended De Courcy's work of subduing the native tribes, building castles, and founding religious establishments. He was followed by Walter de Burgo, who had married De Lacy's daughter. De Burgo's son and grandson were Earls of Ulster in their turn. During the thirteenth century, English influence in Eastern Ulster was in the ascendant, and the land was parcelled out among English and Scottish nobles who were loyal to the crown. They built strong castles and established garrisons at strategic points, and, save for the turbulent O'Neills and O'Cahans in the north-west, the district was entirely under the control of the English. But with the arrival of Edward Bruce in 1315 fortunes changed. Landing at Larne with 6,000 men, by the invitation of the Irish chiefs, who offered him the crown, he was speedily reinforced by the

disaffected tribes, and further aid was received from his brother, Robert Bruce. He defeated the English again and again, captured and destroyed their strongholds, and extended his victorious career over the whole length of Ireland. His defeat and death by Sir John Bermingham, near Dundalk, in 1318, a severe blow to the Irish cause, was counterbalanced by the assassination of William de Burgo, Earl of Ulster, in 1333, and from that time until the beginning of the seventeenth century the English hold on the province was uncertain and precarious. O'Neills, MacDonnells, O'Cahans, Magennises, MacQuillins, and other septs fought for the possession of the country, sometimes against each other, sometimes against the English. Towns were burned, abbeys plundered, castles taken and destroyed; and it was not till after the death of Sorley Boy MacDonnell, in 1590, that English influence again asserted itself, and the turbulent chiefs were subdued. The estates of many were forfeited and handed over to English nobles, by whom they were divided among their adherents. In this way Northern Down, the ancient Upper Clannaboy, was lost to the O'Neills, and planted with Scottish colonists by the new lords of the soil, Sir Hugh Montgomery and James Hamilton, the founder of the Dufferin family. Another important local family, the Magennises, lords of Iveagh, saved their estates by submitting to the crown, but only for a time. Along with many other powerful families in the north-east, they aided Sir Felim O'Neill in the wars of 1641, and their lands were forfeited in consequence.

Cromwell's arrival in Ireland in 1649 was the commencement of a vigorous and successful campaign. Town after town was taken by storm. There was little clemency shown to the vanquished; the horrible scenes of carnage and bloodshed that characterised Felim O'Neill's rebellion in the north, were vividly reflected in the barbarities of the Cromwellians at Drogheda and Wexford.

The Restoration brought but a brief respite in the

bloody drama. In 1689 James II. landed at Kinsale, and soon there was a general rising in the north in favour of William. James marched northward, and there followed the sieges of Derry and Enniskillen, both of which were unsuccessful. In the whole of Ulster, Carrickfergus and Charlemont were the only fortified places which remained



From "Old Belfast."

SCHOMBERG'S TROOPS CROSSING THE LONG BRIDGE, BELFAST, 1689.

in the hands of the Jacobites. Carrickfergus soon fell. General Schomberg entered Belfast Lough, on the conclusion of his Scotch campaign, in August, 1689; landed at Groomsport, marched round the shores of the bay, and reduced the place after an eight days' siege. He then advanced across Co. Down towards Dublin. In June of the following year, William himself landed at Carrickfergus, and, after a week spent at Belfast, marched southward, with 45,000 men, to do battle with James at the Boyne; and the war shifted southward and westward, to be terminated at Aughrim and Limerick.

County Down now enjoyed comparative quiet until the outbreak of the insurrection in 1798. Owing to the fact of much of the county being held by Protestant

settlers, the rigorous penal laws passed after the close of the Jacobite wars pressed less heavily here than in many other parts of Ireland; but by degrees the enactments against the Catholics were relaxed. In 1791 the society known as the United Irishmen was founded in Belfast. Its members were mostly Protestants; its objects were to promote union among all Irishmen, and to endeavour to secure vote by ballot, household suffrage, and annual Parliaments. The organisation soon became powerful, for discontent was rapidly spreading. In 1796 martial law was proclaimed in five counties of Ulster, and stringent measures adopted, and in 1798 the leaders of the new movement were arrested. In spite of this *coup*, a general rising took place in Ireland on May 23rd. We are concerned only with the events in Co. Down, and with those from a purely historical standpoint alone. The United Irishmen of Down first appeared in arms at Saintfield on June 9th, two days after the battle of Antrim had decided the fate of the insurrection in the adjoining county. Hearing of the rising, Col. Stapleton, commanding the York Fencibles at Newtownards, promptly marched out to suppress it. The insurgents awaited his coming on the high road between the two places, and by means of an ambuscade nearly succeeded in surrounding and cutting off Stapleton's force. A brief but sharp action ensued; as a result, the troops fell back on Comber, the insurgents remaining in possession of Saintfield. Next day, Sunday, June 10th, there was a rising in the peninsula of the Ards. An assault was made on Portaferry, but the attack was repulsed by the pluck of Captain Mathews at the head of a body of yeomanry, aided by the fire of a revenue cutter. On the same day considerable bodies of men took possession of Newtownards, whence they marched to join their comrades at Saintfield; and the undisciplined crowd was placed under the command of Henry Monroe, a Lisburn man. Monroe appears to have made his dispositions with skill. He occupied

the high grounds about Ballynahinch, and awaited the advance of the royal troops. These, under command of General Nugent, marched out from Belfast, and were joined by Col. Stewart's garrison from Downpatrick, raising the strength of the Royalist force to above 1,600 men. On the evening of the 12th some skirmishing took place, and the insurgents were forced from their position on Windmill Hill, overlooking Ballynahinch. Next morning a decisive action was fought; for a while the issue appeared doubtful; the pike-men fought with desperate bravery, but discipline and experience prevailed, and the United Irishmen were totally defeated. Monroe was captured, and executed two days after the battle, his forces never rallied; no further attempt was made in Ulster to raise the standard of revolt

Since that period, uninterrupted tranquillity has reigned in Co Down.

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ARCHÆOLOGY.—In County Down the antiquary will find ample materials for investigation and study. Pagan and Christian antiquities alike are well represented. The early inhabitants of the country have left behind them raths and cashels, souterrains and crannoges, cromleacs and kistvaens, stone circles and pillar-stones, carns and tumuli. Good examples of all these monuments occur in the district, and will be described when we come to survey the county in detail in the ensuing pages. As fine examples of raths may be mentioned the "Giant's Ring" near Belfast, the great dun of Downpatrick (from which the county derives its name), and the strong fort which overlooks the town of Dromore; and the cromleacs of Kempe Stone near Dundonald, Legananny near

Dromara, Cloughmore near Hilltown, rank among the finest in Ireland. In addition to these monuments, ancient weapons, implements, utensils, and ornaments, made of stone, bronze, wood, iron, &c., remain to tell us of bygone times. The proximity of the flint-bearing Chalk rocks of Antrim produced an abundant supply of flint, of which the early peoples made full use, as attested by the large quantity of flint implements, from the rude flake to the perfectly worked arrow-head, which have been found in the county.

The relics of later times include castles of all kinds, from the fortified residence of the trader to the imposing stronghold of the Anglo-Norman invader; churches and abbeys, founded by Irish saints or by English nobles; sculptured crosses and round towers. Of the last-named structures, so characteristically Irish, Down cannot boast a perfect example, such as the beautiful "steeple" of Antrim The best specimen in the county is that at Drumbo, of which about 32 feet are still remaining. Of the round towers which formerly stood on Mahee Island and at Maghera the bases only remain Until close to the end of the last century, a tolerably perfect tower stood close by the ruined cathedral of Downpatrick: but it was removed in 1790, during the restoration of the cathedral, for fear that its fall might at some time injure the neighbouring building. Among the most interesting ecclesiastical antiquities of the district may be mentioned the beautiful ruins of Grey Abbey, Inch Abbey near Downpatrick, the very early churches at St. John's Point and Raholp, and the sculptured crosses of Drumgooland, Kilbroney, Dromore, and Donaghmore. The finest ancient castle in the county is undoubtedly the Norman fortress of Dundrum, which frowns from a wooded eminence on the little town and sandy bay. Greencastle, at the entrance of Carlingford Lough, is also an imposing pile; and the district of the Ards and the shores of Strangford Lough are remarkably rich in ruined castles, which rise

picturesquely over the calm waters of the land-locked bay. Souterrains and crannoges are frequent in some parts of the county, and there is still a rich field for investigation in these ancient dwellings and refuges. Of no little interest and importance also are the pre-historic settlements along the coast, of which the sand-dunes near Dundrum supply the best local examples. Here, among the blown sands, are found ancient hearths, burnt stones, charcoal, pottery, bones, stone implements, and ornaments.

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SPORTS AND RECREATIONS.—FISHING.—Though not a Salmon country, County Down offers plenty of sport to the angler. Brown Trout abound in most of the rivers, and fine White Trout are caught in suitable localities. Pike, Perch, and Rudd are likewise abundant. The Lagan used to be a magnificent Salmon river, but the pollution owing to the growth of the populous city on its banks has entirely destroyed its attractions in this respect. Lately, owing to recent purification, some White Trout were caught, and perhaps the river is, under the influence of the Belfast drainage works, coming back to its old form. Brown Trout are plentiful in most parts of the river, the best fishing being in the upper part of its course, at Dromore, &c. Bottom feeding being plentiful, the fish seldom take the fly; they are usually caught with the worm, below the weirs.

The Bann offers good fly-fishing from Banbridge up, the pick of the whole river being from Kate's Bridge to Ballyroney, the stream being here fairly deep, with

occasional runs. The deeps afford shelter for fine Brown Trout, of an average of ¾ lb., running up to 3 lb. and more. For those who prefer a larger basket of smaller fish (½ lb. average), the reach from Ballyroney to Hilltown is recommended; the best course in this case is to fish from the Muttock river down to Ballyroney. Above the Muttock there are lots of fish of ¼ lb. or less.

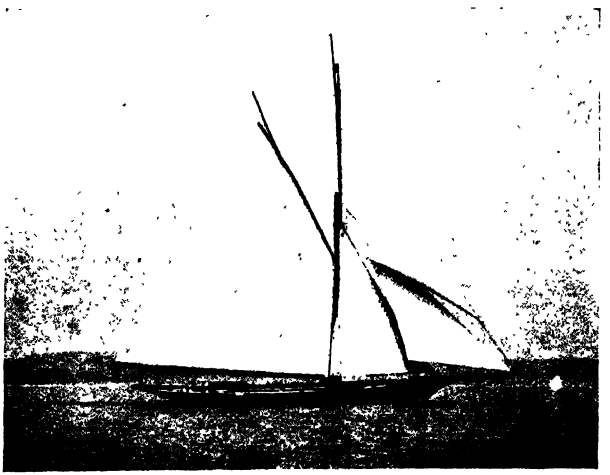
In the deep slow-flowing lower reaches of the Quoile, Pike and White Trout are to be caught. From Kilmore to Ballynahinch there is fair Brown Trout fishing. The biggest fish are in the deep water below Kilmore, and the best plan is to fish up the river from that place to Ballynahinch. The fish average ¼ lb. to ½ lb., and run up to 2½ lb.

The Comber River yields fine White Trout early and late in the season; the Brown Trout are few and small. The lakes in the centre of the county are full of Perch, and most of them are haunted by the ubiquitous Pike. The fishing in the Mourne Mountain district will be referred to under the head of NEWCASTLE. All the fishing which we have mentioned above is free.

For sea-fishing, Bangor is the principal centre, but Groomsport, Donaghadee, Portaferry, Ardglass, &c., also provide facilities. In Belfast Lough a number of sunken wrecks, the positions of which are well known to the boatmen, afford good ground-fishing, though not so productive as they were twenty years ago. Ling, Cod, Coal-fish, Conger-Eel, and Skate are caught on ground-lines in these spots and elsewhere. On float-lines, which are allowed to stream out behind the anchored boat with the tide in about mid-water, very good sport is obtainable. The take consists of Sea-Bream (locally called *Carp*), Grey Gurnard *(Knowd)*, Pollack *(Lythe)*, Coal-fish *(Pickie, Blockan*, or *Glashin)*, &c. Pollack and Coal-fish are also caught from a boat rowed slowly along, on rods with short lines and a white feather as bait. Mackerel come into the lough in numbers in the early autumn, and are caught

when sailing tolerably fast. Mr. R. Lloyd Patterson records as many as 354 Mackerel as taken by one boat in a day's fishing of this kind, locally called "streaming.' Plaice and other flat-fish are caught in numbers on long lines for the Belfast market; plenty of Codling are taken in the same manner.

BOATING.—The whole County Down coast offers admirable opportunities and facilities for boating in every



THE GERMAN EMPEROR'S YACHT "METEOR" AT BANGOR.

form, and in summer-time the harbours are haunted by all kinds of craft, from the 500-ton steam yacht to the little canoe. Belfast Lough is the head-quarters of yachting in Ulster, and, indeed, of all kinds of sailing. The Royal Ulster Yacht Club hoists its ensign at Bangor, and under its auspices the "Britannia," "Meteor," "Ailsa," "Shamrock," and other famous racers have visited the lough, and swept over its waters in keen competition; and at Cultra the North of Ireland Yacht

Club is rapidly assuming importance. Sailing clubs for smaller boats, and rowing clubs, are found at Belfast, Carrickfergus, Bangor, Donaghadee, Ballywalter, Portaferry, Kircubbin, Downpatrick, and Ardglass.

Bangor and Donaghadee are the principal centres where boats may be obtained for hire. Bangor boasts a very fine class of half-decked sailing boats, and equally seaworthy are the big lug-rigged open boats of Donaghadee. Small boats may be obtained at every spot round the coast. Strangford Lough is a particularly interesting place for exploring in a small boat, though some knowledge of the tides is necessary. A more suitable place for canoeing than this great land-locked island-studded bay it is difficult to imagine. In Strangford Lough each summer a series of regattas is held at the various villages, when prizes are offered for competition among the local boats, and for the three Belfast Lough one-design classes of sailing boats as well. Carlingford Lough is not very safe in rough weather, on account of the sudden squalls which come down from the high hills that surround it; but at ordinary times much boating is done at Warrenpoint, Rostrevor, and Carlingford, amid some of the loveliest scenery in all Ireland.

GOLFING.—County Down is one of the most important centres of the ancient and royal game of golf outside Scotland. The two leading local clubs are the County Down and the Royal Belfast, but many smaller clubs exist, as at Saintfield, Ardglass, and elsewhere. The Royal Belfast Club have their club-house and links on the delightful breezy braes of Carnalea, overlooking the entrance of Belfast Lough—a place situated remarkably conveniently with regard to the northern metropolis, and commanding a glorious prospect of land and sea. But it is Newcastle upon which is focused the interest of the lovers of golf. No more suitable ground for their time-honoured sport could be found than the broad expanse of



A BIG GOLF MATCH AT NEWCASTLE.
Welch's Irish Views.

Book. No. 9557 Date 5.7.11.75

dunes that faces Dundrum Bay, and here, overlooked by the windows of the great new Slieve Donard Hotel, and of the pretty and commodious club-house of the County Down Golf Club, is situated one of the finest courses in the three kingdoms. With the additional attraction of the pure bracing air and beautiful mountain views, Newcastle is deservedly reckoned a golfer's paradise.

CYCLING.—The roads of County Down are good, as Irish roads go—decidedly better than those of Dublin and the central plain, where the limestone prevails, but not so good as the splendid roads of Connemara or Kerry. The County Down highways have, however, the advantage of being endlessly diversified—there is hardly a dead straight mile in the county, and but few miles that are dead level. The roads wind in and out among the rounded hillocks and across low ridges, offering fresh prospects at every turn. Although most of the roads have plenty of slight ups and downs, hills that cannot be ridden, owing to their steepness or their length, are few in number. Little towns with suitable hotel accomodation are dotted over the county at frequent intervals, so that one could explore the whole district without shifting one's sleeping quarters more than 10 miles each day. In the accompanying sketch-map, the stopping places which can be recommended are marked with a star. The best roads, as regards surface and absence of hills, are marked with a deep blue line, average roads with a green line, and inferior roads, on account of either rough surface or severe hills, are coloured red.

WALKING.—The pedestrian has certain advantages over the cyclist. He can take short cuts over hill and dale; he is not confined to the better roads, but roams at leisure through flowery lanes and across sweet meadows; and his slower progress results in his seeing much more of the country through which he is passing. A district

Acon. No. 9557 Date 27.11.75

and obtaining permission to visit Lord Kilmorey's picturesque demesne of Mourne Park.

The scenery changes at Rostrevor, which is scarcely as good for sketching purposes, although many charming bits occur up the Kilbroney river and amongst the woods that clothe the valley and lower slopes of the mountains; the tourist would do well to spend a few days at Hilltown, which, lying on the high ground on the inland side of the



HAULING OUT —ARDGLASS HERRING FISHING.

Mourne Mountains, does not afford such good general views of the range, but gives delightful sketches along the course of the infant Bann. A few days at Bryansford will richly reward by the beauty of the river in Lord Roden's demesne, Tollymore Park.

NATURAL HISTORY.—GEOLOGY.—The undulating fertile lowlands of County Down are formed almost entirely of broad folds of Ordovician and Silurian rocks, and they are the oldest rocks in the county. These ancient slates and grits extend south-westward across Armagh and Monaghan into Longford and Cavan, and southward into Louth and Meath. "This region is practically an extension of the Southern Uplands of Scotland, with which it agrees in its complicated structure of close-packed anticlinals, and in the general nature of the rocks. The anticlines display Bala and even Llandeilo rocks, the synclines are filled with the

more recent deposits of the Upper Silurian System. Towards the north the sedimentary rocks are penetrated by numerous dykes of diabase and mica trap, and consist of grey, purplish, and greenish-grey *grits*, often micaceous, with *flagstones*, *conglomerates*, and some *slates*, and bands of dark graptolitic *shales* at several different horizons. Mr. Swanston and Professor Lapworth, by the examination of these organisms on Belfast Lough and the shores to the east, have been able to establish subdivisions of the graptolite-bearing shales. Messrs. Clark and Peach have traced four divisions as far as Hillsborough, and the three lower divisions into County Armagh."* At Greencastle, in the extreme south of the county, a small exposure of Carboniferous limestone may be seen, the eastern limit of the outcrop of these rocks that stretches along the coast from Carlingford to Dundalk. At Castle Espie, near Comber, a handsome red limestone of the same age occurs over a small area; and fossiliferous shales belonging to the Lower Carboniferous may be seen on the shore at Cultra on Belfast Lough. Near the latter spot occurs one of the three patches of Permian rocks found in Ireland—a small exposure of dolomite between tide-marks. Bright red sandstones and clays of Triassic age occupy the valley of the Lagan, the shores of Belfast Lough, and the depression that extends from Belfast to Comber and Newtownards. At the quarries on Scrabo Hill, overlooking the latter town, beautiful sections of pink and red Keuper sandstones may be seen. The rock exhibits ripple-marks and sun-cracks in great perfection, and is traversed by dykes and intrusive sheets of basalt, which forms the mass of the hill above.

The Chalk, which forms so conspicuous a feature of the adjoining coast of Antrim, and also the underlying beds of Greensand, are represented in Down only by a little strip running from Moira to Waringstown, peeping out from under the basalt. The next series of rocks (in ascending order) which occur in the county are the Tertiary lavas so characteristic of Antrim and Derry. In Down, an important outlier of these volcanic rocks is Scrabo Hill, near Newtownards; and rocks of the same age occur in small patches here and there, and as dykes in many places. The grand granite mass of the Mourne Mountains is now considered to be of the same age as the lava-flows of Antrim; but the granite rocks which form the adjoining uplands of Slieve Croob, and stretch westward to Newry, have no connection with these, and are much more ancient, probably of the age of the Lower Old Red Sandstone. The low grounds of County Down are usually covered with a deposit of Lower Boulder Clay, often of considerable thickness; in the northern portion of the county of a bright red colour, owing to the denudation of the Triassic rocks. In many places marine shells of boreal character have been found in these beds, and the underlying rocks are usually smoothed and scored; the surface of the limestone at Castle Espie, and the Ordovician rocks at Ballyquintin Point and Killough Bay, furnish beautiful examples of this glaciation. The esker-like ridges and mounds in the Dundonald valley yield marine shells, and appear to belong to the Middle Sands and Gravels series. Upper Boulder Clay has not yet been

* M'Henry and Watts: *Guide to the Collections of Rocks and Fossils belonging to the Geological Survey of Ireland.* 1895. Price 9d.

satisfactorily shown to occur in the county. Erratic blocks are frequent. Their distribution, and the glaciation of the underlying rocks, show that the ice to which both these phenomena are attributable came from the north or north-east. Some of the more famous erratic blocks will be referred to later. Underlying Belfast is an extensive and varied series of post-glacial deposits, consisting chiefly of marine clays full of molluscan and other remains. Similar clays occur at several places in Strangford Lough, at Downpatrick, and at Newcastle. The most recent deposits in the district consist of raised beaches, which are found at many points round the coast; of marl beds, the sites of old lakes; and of peat bogs.

Economic Geology.—The grits and slates which extend over the greater part of Co. Down are largely used for common purposes. Everywhere they form the metalling of the roads, and the walls of buildings of all kinds, from the farmer's byre to the cathedral of Downpatrick. At Ballygowan the grits are thick-bedded and dense, and are extensively quarried for square-setts, &c. At Holywood and elsewhere inky black shales are found, useful for avenues, as they form a hard crust, and the great amount of iron and sulphur which they contain prevents the growth of weeds. At Conlig and elsewhere galena occurs in fair quantity in the Ordovician rocks, but mining is not now remunerative; and on Deehommed Mountain, near Ballynahinch, a thick bed of bright red hæmatite is exposed, yielding no less than 64½ per cent. of metallic iron; but the place is remote, and the small mines which have been opened there have not succeeded. At Greyabbey and Bangor, slates of fair quality occur, and may be seen roofing most of the older houses in those districts; but Welsh slates have driven them out of the market. None of the beds of Primary limestone occurring in the county are worked, though quarrying was formerly carried on at Cultra and largely at Castle Espie. About Moira the Chalk is quarried and burned in large quantities. The pink Keuper sandstones of Scrabo Hill are extensively quarried, as already stated; the better qualities form a serviceable stone, easily worked and durable. The handsome shop of Messrs. Robinson & Cleaver in Belfast is built of a thin-bedded white freestone obtained on the west side of Scrabo Hill. East of Dundonald, a deep red Bunter sandstone was formerly extensively quarried, and blocks of large scantling were easily obtained. The granites of County Down are the most valuable rocks of the district. The ancient granite of Central Down is quarried on a large scale at Castlewellan and Newry. This is a light grey fine-grained rock, free from the "horse-teeth" of felspar found in the granite of Cornwall and Shap, and from the large mica-flakes that characterise the Leinster rock. It is very uniform in texture, and exceedingly tough. When, in 1864, specimens of granite from various places in England, Scotland, and Ireland were tested at Woolwich by direction of the War Office, it was found that whereas the strongest of any of the other samples gave way under a pressure of 12,800 lbs., the Castlewellan granite sustained a pressure of 34,000 lbs. before crushing. The rock is very massive, and enormous blocks can be obtained, the only limit to their size being the difficulty of removing them. This granite forms the material of

which the steps, landings, diagonal pedestals, and grey columns of the angle clusters of the Albert Memorial in Hyde Park, London, were constructed; and it is seen to advantage in some of the best buildings in Belfast. The newer granite of Mourne is not quarried at any one spot to a great extent, but hundreds of people around the mountains make their livelihood by splitting and dressing into kerbstones, square-setts, &c., the innumerable blocks with which the hillsides are strewn.

REFERENCES.—Geological Survey of Ireland, sheets 36, 37, 38, 48, 49, 50, 60, 61, 71, 72 of the *Maps*; sheets 22, 23, and 24 of the *Sections*; and the *Memoirs* descriptive thereof. Hull: *Physical Geology and Geography of Ireland* (1878). Kinahan: *Manual of the Geology of Ireland* (1878). M'Henry and Watts: *Guide to the Collection of Rocks and Fossils belonging to the Geological Survey of Ireland* (1895). Belfast Nat. Field Club's *Guide to Belfast and the adjacent Counties* (1874). Reports of the Geological Section, in *Proceedings* of the Belfast Nat. Field Club for the last few years. Swanston and Lapworth: *Silurian Rocks of County Down* (1877), in Belfast Nat. Field Club's *Systematic Lists*, vol. i. Stewart: *Mollusca of the Boulder Clay of the North-east of Ireland* (1880), in B.N.F.C.'s *Systematic Lists*, vol. i. Wright: *Post-Tertiary Foraminifera of the North-east of Ireland*, in B.N.F.C.'s *Systematic Lists*, vol. i. Praeger: *Report on the Estuarine Clays of the North-east of Ireland*, in Proc. R.I. Academy, 3rd ser., vol ii., no. 2 (1892). Praeger: *Report upon the Raised Beaches of the North-east of Ireland*, in Proc. R. I Academy, 3rd ser., vol. iv., no. 1 (1897). Hardman: *List of Papers published on the Geology of the North of Ireland* (1872). Praeger: *Bibliography of Irish Glacial and Post-Glacial Geology*, Proc. B N.F.C. 1885-86, appendix. Consult also collections of rocks and fossils in the Belfast Museum, College Square North; open 10 to 4, admission 6d.

ZOOLOGY.—The high state of cultivation which prevails over the greater part of the county is not favourable to the existence of the larger wild animals. A few Badgers still live round about the Mourne Mountains. The Otter has a wide distribution, but is rare. Foxes are more common. The Marten is a rare inhabitant, but as lately as 1891 fine specimens were obtained at Finnebrogue, near Downpatrick, and Tollymore Park, near Newcastle. The Irish Stoat, or Assogue (*Putorius hibernicus*, Thomas and Barrett-Hamilton), is found in every part of the county. The Mountain Hare (*Lepus variabili*) and Rabbit are everywhere; likewise the Norway Rat, Common Mouse, Long-tailed Field Mouse, and Lesser Shrew. The "Irish Rat" (*Mus hibernicus* of Thompson), now considered a variety of the Norway Rat, and the Black Rat (*Mus rattus*), have not been definitely recorded from the county, though they have been taken in districts adjoining. The Squirrel is increasing and spreading, notably in the demesnes of Lord Roden at Bryansford and Lord Annesley at Castlewellan. It is believed to have spread from the demesne of Ravensdale, where Lord Clermont introduced it about the year 1851. The animal is, perhaps, not an original native of Ireland, though now found over the length and breadth of the country. Of Bats, the Long-eared Bat, Pipistrelle, Leisler's,

Natterer's, and Whiskered Bat are the only species which have been recorded with certainty from the county. The aquatic Mammalia which have been observed on the shores of the county are few in number. The Common Seal haunts the coasts in small numbers, and is occasionally seen high up the loughs of Belfast and Carlingford; a Grey Seal *(Halichœrus grypus)* and young were shot on the coast in 1837. The Bottle-nosed Whale and Porpoise are common, and the White-beaked Dolphin has been recorded.

To turn next to the Birds. Among the rarer species which are known to breed in the county are the Peregrine Falcon, Chough, Raven, Oyster-catcher, Merlin, Ring-Ouzel, Night-jar, Golden Plover, Curlew, Great Crested Grebe, and Sheldrake. Among birds which formerly bred in the county are numbered the Golden Eagle, Marsh Harrier, and Common Buzzard. The non-resident species which have been recorded from the county include the Snowy Owl, Great Grey Shrike, Bittern, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Pallas's Sand-Grouse, Crane, Grey Phalarope, American Bittern, Sea Eagle, Bewick's Swan, Wilson's Petrel, Fork-tailed Petrel.

One of the most interesting Fishes of the district is the Pollan *(Coregonus pollan)*, whose claim as a County Down species rests on the little bit of the county which borders Lough Neagh. In that lake this fish occurs in abundance, and is exported in large numbers to the English markets. It is not found outside Ireland, but a closely allied species inhabits the Lake country in England—the Vendace; and another, the Gwyniad, occurs in Wales. They all belong to the Salmon tribe, and are good, well-flavoured fish. The Pollan has been found to feed on a small shrimp-like crustacean *(Mysis relicta)* not found anywhere else in the British Islands. It occurs nowhere nearer Ireland than the great Swedish lakes. The variety *semiloricatus* of the Stickleback *(Gasterosteus aculeatus)* has been obtained near Donaghadee. It is not known elsewhere in the British Islands, but occurs in France. It possesses scaly plates reaching all along the sides nearly to the tail.

The groups of Invertebrate Animals can be only briefly referred to here. The Marine Mollusca of the district are well known, thanks to the labours of Thompson, Hyndman, and Dickie. The most striking feature of local conchology is the occurrence of many very rare species, chiefly small univalves, in a dead state on the "Turbot Bank," off the entrance of Belfast Lough, where no less than 18 species of *Rissoa* and 21 of *Odostomia* have been dredged; and the occurrence in the live state of a number of distinctly northern species, such as *Crenella decussata*, *Leda minuta*, *Tectura testudinalis*, *Emarginula crassa*, and *Trophon truncatus*. Among the land and fresh-water Mollusca some rare species may be quoted. The local list includes *Acme lineata* and var. *alba*, *Pupa anglica* var. *pallida*, *Helix lamellata*, *Planorbis crista*, *P. glaber*, *Valvata cristata*, *Vertigo substriata*, *V. antivertigo*, *Ancylus lacustris*, *Hyalinia radiatula*, *H. nitida*, *H. fulva*, *Pisidium pulchellum*, *Limnæa stagnalis*, *Balea perversa*, *Amalia gagates*.

Entomology.—Turning now to the Insects, the local moths include the Muslin Moth *(Spilosoma mendica*—the males all cream-coloured), Port-

land Moth *(Agrotis præcox)*, Northern Rustic *(A. lucernea)*, Snout Moth *(Hypena proboscidalis)*, Pechypogon barbalis, August Thorn Moth *(Ennomos quercinaria)*, Barred Carpet Moth *(Emmelesia taeniata)*, Crambus Warringtonellus. The best localities for *Lepidoptera* in the district are the low grounds along the river Lagan, and the neighbourhood of the Mourne Mountains.

Many interesting species of Beetles have been found in Co. Down. The rare *Carabus glabratus* has occurred. *C. arvensis* and the beautiful *C. nitens* may be looked for on heaths or in boggy situations. *Blethisa multipunctata* is frequently found on the shores of lakes. The interesting *Silpha subrotundata* may be found almost everywhere; it is almost confined to Ireland. On Slieve Donard have been taken the only Irish specimens of the northern Weevil *Otiorrhynchus maurus*. *O. auropunctatus* should also be looked for; it has been recorded from the Pyrenees and Central France, but will almost certainly be found on the Down coast, as specimens have been taken at Carlingford. On the summits of the Mourne Mountains, particularly on Slieve Donard, many interesting northern species occur.

The Spiders of the district include *Tmeticus Huthwaitii* and *Oonops pulcher*, both of which have been taken in the Ards peninsula, the former at Glastry, the latter at Ballywalter; also *Tmeticus prudens*, which has been found on Slieve Donard. *Entelecara broccha*, from the summit of the same mountain, is unknown elsewhere in the British Isles.

Another rare Ards animal is *Trichoniscus roseus*, a Wood-Louse of a light vermilion colour, which has been taken at Ballyfinragh Lough, near Portaferry. In Great Britain it has been found only at Plymouth.

For the lower groups of animals, the works quoted at the end of this article should be consulted.

References.—Thompson: *Natural History of Ireland*, vols. i.–iv., 1849–56. Patterson: *Birds, Fishes, and Cetacea of Belfast Lough* (1850). B.N.F.C.'s *Guide to Belfast and the adjacent Counties* (1874). Ussher: *The Distribution of Birds breeding in Ireland, Irish Naturalist*, March, 1897. Jameson: *The Bats of Ireland, Irish Nat.*, Feb., 1897. Scharff: *The Irish Cetacea, Irish Nat.*, Apr., 1900. Scharff: *Catalogue of Irish Fishes in the Science and Art Museum, Dublin* (1889). Scharff: *The Irish Land and Fresh-water Mollusca, Irish Nat.*, vol. i. (1892). Praeger: *The Marine Shells of the North of Ireland, Proc. Belfast Nat. Field Club*, 1887–88, *Appendix*. Watts: *Lepidoptera taken in the Belfast District, Proc.* B.N.F.C., 1893–94, *Appendix*. B.N.F.C.'s *Systematic Lists*, vol. i. (1886), includes lists of local *Coleoptera, Ostracoda*, and *Foraminifera*, by Haliday, Robert Patterson, Malcomson, and Wright. Consult also collections in Belfast Museum, College Square North.

BOTANY.—The flora of County Down (Phanerogams and Vascular Cryptogams) numbers about 720 species—a total slightly less than that of Antrim, and slightly greater than that of Armagh. The flora possesses no peculiar features. The group of plants which characterise the basaltic hills of Antrim, such as Spring Sandwort *(Arenaria verna)*, Shining Crane's-bill *(Geranium lucidum)*, Wood Vetch *(Vicia sylvatica)*, Mossy

Saxifrage *(Saxifraga hypnoides)*, Red Broom-rape *(Orobanche rubra)*, are very rare in or absent from the county. The Mourne Mountains yield some interesting alpines, but not so many as might be expected on highlands of such elevation and ruggedness. Many of the species characteristic of the Dublin district—in many cases plants of light soils and of southern proclivities—do not range so far north as Down, and a number of plants characteristic of the great Limestone Plain of Central Ireland do not grow on the Ordovician grits. The highly interesting group of Spanish and Mediterranean plants that render the west coast of Ireland famous are entirely absent from Down, the most easterly county of the island. Nevertheless, County Down can offer some rare plants to the botanist:—Welsh Poppy *(Meconopsis cambrica)*, Intermediate Winter Cress *(Barbarea intermedia)*, Octandrous Waterwort *(Elatine Hydropiper)*, Rock Sandwort *(Buda rupestris)*, Curtis's Pansy *(Viola Curtisii)*, Irish Rose *(Rosa hibernica)*, *Valerianella carinata*, several rare Hawkweeds *(Hieracium hibernicum, flocculosum, argenteum, &c.)*, Rough Hawksbeard *(Crepis biennis)*, Mountain Saw-wort *(Saussurea alpina)*, Water Lobelia *(L. Dortmanna)*, Marsh Andromeda *(A. Polifolia)*, Winter-green *(Pyrola media)*, Sea Gromwell *(Pneumaria maritima)*, Creeping Toad-flax *(Linaria repens)*, Few-flowered Sea-Lavender *(Statice rariflora)*, Lesser Butterwort *(Pinguicula lusitanica)*, Autumnal Water-Starwort *(Callitriche autumnalis)*, Portland Spurge *(Euphorbia portlandica)*, Dwarf Willow *(Salix herbacea)*, Vernal Squill *(Scilla verna)*, Floating Bur-reed *(Sparganium affine)*, Sweet Flag *(Acorus Calamus)*, Shining Pondweed *(Potamogeton nitens)*, Narrow-leaved Pondweed *(P. angustifolius)*, Tassel Pondweed *(Ruppia spiralis)*, Horned Pondweed *(Zannichellia polycarpa)*, Drooping Bog Sedge *(Carex limosa)*, Wood Fescue-grass *(Festuca sylvatica)*, Smooth Brome-grass *(Bromus racemosus)*.

The Moss flora of the county has been well worked out, and numbers over 250 species. The mountain district of Mourne forms a highly interesting collecting ground for these pretty plants. As examples of some of the rarest species found in the county may be mentioned *Mollia inclinata*, *M. tenuirostris*, *Grimmia Donii*, *Glyphomitrium Daviesii*, and *Diphyscium foliosum*. The allied group of Hepatics numbers about 70 species; three of the rarest of these are *Pleurozia cochleariformis*, *Radula aquilegia*, and *Pallavicinia hibernica*, all found in the Newcastle district. The district is rich in fungi, and the fine old woods that occur in many places, such as those of Tollymore Park, offer a tempting field for mycological study. Some 400 species have been listed for the county by Rev. H. W. Lett.

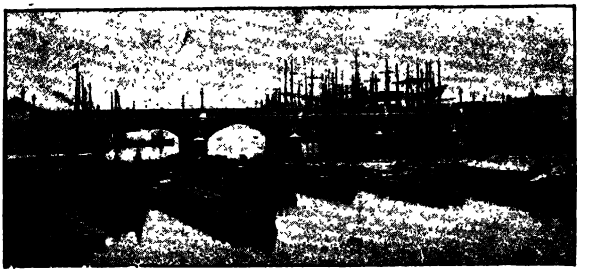
The Algæ of Co. Down are not as yet fully worked out; and in view of the excellent example set by our Scottish neighbours on the opposite side of the Irish Sea, it is to be hoped that further research will be instituted. The Marine Algæ of the district have occupied the attention of such well-known naturalists as Harvey, M'Calla, David Moore, Drummond, William Thompson, and John Templeton, and good results have followed their investigations. The coasts of Down are eminently fitted for successful seaweed collecting The loughs of Belfast and Strangford furnish fine dredging-ground, and the rocky shores of the Ards and in the neighbourhood of Newcastle are well adapted for shore-collecting. Among the

rarer or more interesting seaweeds recorded from the county we may mention the following:—Olive Seaweeds—*Arthrocladia villosa*, *Sporochnus pedunculatus*, *Tilopteris Mertensii*, *Aglaozonia reptans;* Red Seaweeds—*Odonthalia dentata*, *Rhodomela lycopodioides*, many species of *Polysiphonia*, *Bonnemaisonia asparagoides*, *Naccaria Wigghii*, *Sphondylothamnion multifidum*, *Lithothamnion corallioides;* Green Seaweeds—*Epicladia flustræ*, *Gomontia polyrhiza*.

REFERENCES.—Moore & More: *Contributions towards a Cybele Hibernica*, second edition (1898). Belfast Nat. Field Club's *Guide to Belfast and the adjacent Counties* (1874). Stewart and Corry: *Flora of the North-east of Ireland* (1888). Stewart and Praeger: *Supplement to the Flora of the North-east of Ireland*, in *Proc. B.N.F.C.*, 1884–5, Appendix. Lett: *Fungi of the North-east of Ireland* (1885), in B.N.F.C.'s *Systematic Lists*, vol. i. Consult also collections in Belfast Museum, College Square North.



SCENE ON THE RIVER LAGAN.



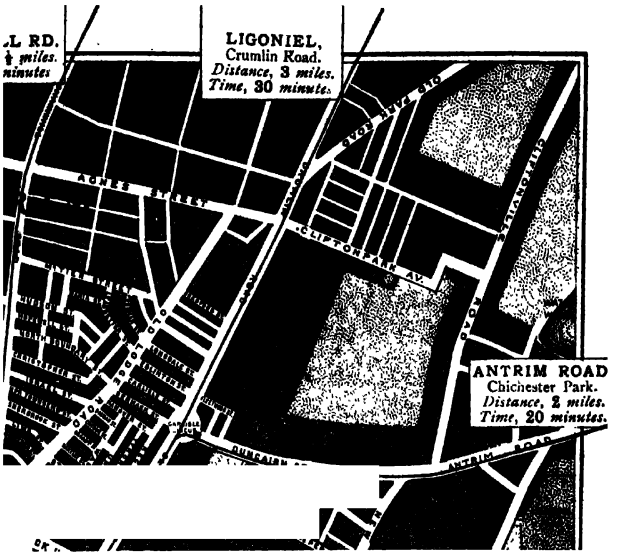
QUEEN'S BRIDGE, BELFAST

II.

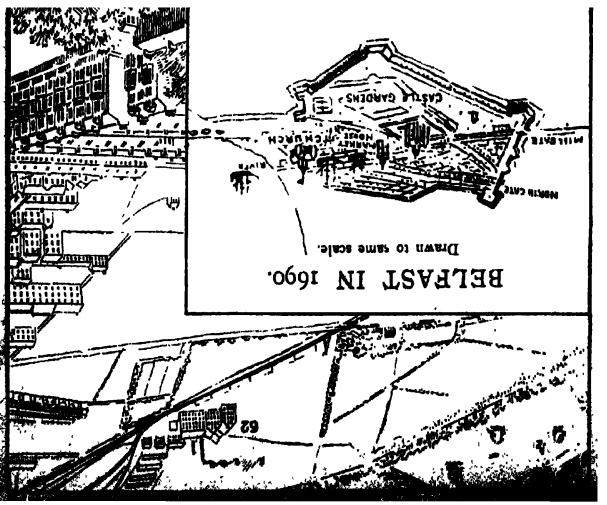
Belfast.

THE greater portion of the city of Belfast is situated in County Antrim. Being the centre of the railway system of the North of Ireland, and also the natural point of arrival by sea, it becomes the point from which the tour of County Down is best commenced. As such, a brief description of the town and its surroundings is requisite.

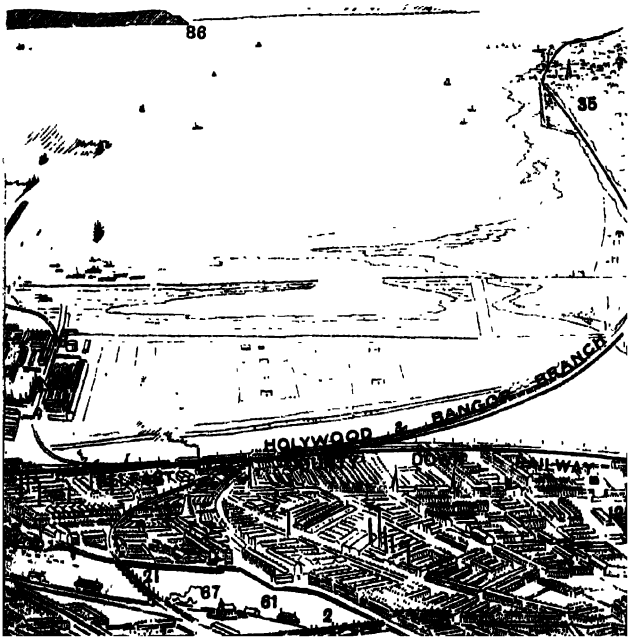
NAME AND HISTORY.—The name of the city is derived from *beal*, a mouth, entrance, or ford, and *fearsat* (genitive *feirste*), a sandbank or bar, from the ancient ford that existed across the shallows at the mouth of the River Lagan—*Beal feirste* having been contracted into *Belfast*. The earliest mention of the ford, which was naturally an important strategic point, occurs in the *Annals of the Four Masters*, under date A.D. 665—"The battle of Fearsat, between the Ulidians and the Cruithni, where Cathasach, son of Laircine, was slain." When De Courcy invaded Ulster in 1177, he erected near the ford the first castle of Belfast, one of the many castles which he built to protect his new dominion. For a long period



From the Town Book of Belfast by permission of R M Young, B.A., M.R.I.A



Queen's Island Shipbuilding Works
Queen's Quay
Reform Club
Richardson, Sons & Owden's
Robinson & Cleaver's
Royal Opera House
Royal Academical Institution
Royal Hotel
Rowing Clubs
Royal Irish Distilleries
Sailors' Home
St. Anne's Parish Church
St. Enoch's Pres. Ch. & Schools
St. George's Church
St. John's Church
St. Malachy's R. C. Chapel
St. Malachy's Diocesan College
St. Patrick's R. C. Chapel
71. St. Peter's R. C. Chapel
72. Smithfield Market
73. Theatre Royal
74. Twin Islands
75. Ulster Club
76. Ulster Hall
77. Union Club
78. University Road Meth. Church
79. Union Workhouse & Fever Hospital
80. Victor Coates & Co.'s (Ld.) Works
81. Victoria Barracks
82. Victoria College (Mrs. Byers)
83. Waterworks, Antrim Road
84. Whiteabbey
85. Whitehouse
86. Whitehead
87. York St. Flax Spin. & Weav. Mills
88. Y.M.C.A. Buildings



Belfast consisted of little more than a castle guarding the ford, and its annals consist merely of occasional references to it in the old chronicles. King John passed across the ford in 1210 on his way to Carrickfergus. Edward Bruce, who landed at Carrickfergus in 1315 to assist the Irish cause, destroyed the fortress of Belfast in the course of the dashing and successful raid that drove the English out of Ulster. William de Burgo, Earl of Ulster, was assassinated here on June 6, 1333, by a party of malcontents, both English and Irish, including some of his own kinsmen.

In 1476 Belfast was in the hands of that warlike sept the O'Neills of Clannaboye, who had defeated the English of Co. Down with great slaughter on *Beann Uamha*, Hill of the Cave, now Cave Hill, in 1468 During the stormy sixteenth century the castle was taken and retaken several times, and more than once destroyed by the English; but the O'Neills stuck to it pertinaciously, and were finally, in 1552, confirmed in its possession by a grant of Edward VI. In 1573, Queen Elizabeth appointed the Earl of Essex Lord Governor of Ulster, who, having got rid of the troublesome O'Neill chief by the simple method of assassination, made Belfast his head-quarters. Essex suggested to the Council in London the desirability of making Belfast a fortified corporate town, and of bridging the Lagan, but these schemes were not carried out. The advent of Sir Arthur Chichester, Lord Deputy of Ireland, in 1604, marked the first advance of Belfast. He received a grant of the town, manor, and castle of Belfast and adjoining territory forfeited by the O'Neills. Chichester fostered the little hamlet, encouraged immigration, and so far advanced the prosperity of the place that in 1613 Belfast received its charter of incorporation, and the right to return two members to Parliament. In 1637 another important advance was made, when the Earl of Strafford purchased from the Corporation of Carrickfergus certain rights of levying dues on commodities imported at adjoining places.

The first Belfast Fair was held on August 1, 1604. Regular markets were established in 1611, and in the same year Sir Arthur Chichester erected on the site of the former castles "a dainty stately palace," according to Sir William Brereton. In 1632 the little town possessed a market-house. The removal in 1637 of the dues imposed by Carrickfergus, just alluded to, and the immigration of Scotch Presbyterian settlers, gave an impetus to the trade of Belfast, which now began to advance in importance. But even in 1660, Belfast consisted of only five streets—High Street, Bridge Street, North Street, Skipper Street, and Waring Street. In Mr R. M. Young's *Town Book of Belfast*, an instructive bird's-eye view is inserted that well shows the situation of the city with regard to the lough and to the neighbouring hills, and also, by comparison with a plan of the town in the year 1660, the enormous growth of the town during the intervening period. This bird's-eye view is reproduced upon the back of the map of Belfast which appears at page 28.



OLD CORPORATE SEAL OF BELFAST, 1613.

The confusion and devastation caused by the civil war affected Belfast in no small degree, and during the troubled latter half of the seventeenth century the place changed hands several times, each time with loss to its trade and prosperity. The castle of Belfast, which had been so often captured and recaptured, destroyed and rebuilt, was burned to the ground in 1708, through the carelessness of a servant, and its troubled career thus appropriately terminated in flame and smoke. In the eighteenth century a peaceful and prosperous period set in, which has lasted with but slight interruption till the

present day. Especially in recent times, the city has increased by leaps and bounds. In 1757 the population was 8,549; in 1810, 30,720; in 1851, 100,301; in 1871, 174,412; in 1891, 255,950. The present population (April, 1900) is officially estimated at 360,000. This rapid rise in the population is equalled by the marvellous increase in the dimensions of its trade and manufactures, which place Belfast now in the foremost rank among the commercial centres of the British Isles. The rank of "city" was conferred on Belfast in 1888, and in 1892 its chief magistrate received the title of Lord Mayor.

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DESCRIPTION.—Belfast is beautifully situated on the river Lagan (*lagán*, a shallow valley), at the head of Belfast Lough, an arm of the North Channel about 14 miles long and 4 miles wide. This lough was anciently called Loch Laoigh ("the lake of the calf"). In the *Annals of the Four Masters* may be found the tradition of its formation. Under *Anno Mundi* 3506, we read that the eruption of Loch Laegh in Ulster took place. Adamnan translated this as *Lacus Vituli*. When the fame of the great Abbey of Bangor was over the land, the adjoining bay was called Loch Bannchor. Long afterwards, when Carrickfergus had become an important fortress, and Belfast was as yet a group of fishermen's huts, it was known as Knockfergus or Carrickfergus Bay. All along the northern side of the lough runs a range of heather-clad basaltic hills, attaining their maximum elevation (1,567 feet on Divis Mountain) opposite Belfast, and sinking to the general level of the country on the shores of Lough Neagh to the westward. This range is in places precipitous and highly picturesque, as on Cave Hill (1,188 feet), near Belfast, and Knockagh (917 feet), near

Carrickfergus. North-eastward from Belfast the lough opens out, and on a day of ordinary clearness the Scottish coast, on the opposite side of the North Channel, is plainly visible stretching across its mouth. South-westward lies



the populous valley of the Lagan, occupied by busy factories, well-wooded demesnes, and carefully tilled fields. Southward, the low range of the Castlereagh Hills (599 feet) overlooks the city. A fertile valley opening eastward, through which runs the main line of the Belfast and County Down Railway, separates the Castlereagh Hills from the Holywood Hills (720 feet), an adjoining fertile ridge that rises over the southern shore of the lough.

The city proper lies on the northern or Antrim side of the Lagan, and the busy and populous suburb of Ballymacarrett on the adjoining Down bank. The site of the old fortress and surrounding settlement is still the centre of the city. The castle of Belfast stood between Donegall Place and Corn Market, and the names of adjoining streets—Castle Street, Castle Place, Castle Lane, Castle Market—perpetuate its memory; the last trace of the structure vanished long since. The river, straightened by extensive works, now occupies a straight channel from a little below Queen's Bridge to the deep water five miles down the lough, and it is bordered at Belfast by about four

miles of quays, where ships of the greatest draught can lie, and whence passenger steamers sail daily to and from Liverpool, Fleetwood, Barrow, Ardrossan, and Glasgow. Among the more striking structures at Belfast Harbour



are the 100-ton derrick crane, and the adjoining Alexandra Graving Dock, 800 feet in length, and capable of accommodating the longest vessel afloat. A new graving dock is about to be constructed of sufficient width to accommodate the largest ship of Her Majesty's navy. On the Antrim side, the spacious wet docks, and the fine range of sheds at Donegall Quay, filled with goods of all kinds, convey a good impression of the extensive trade of the port.

In 1899 the income of the port amounted to over £158,000. The shipping cleared from the port during the year amounted to 2,358,705 registered tons. Fourteen vessels constructed in the shipyards, measuring 122,561 tons gross and 74,568 tons net, cleared during the year. The increase in the tonnage cleared from the port has been remarkably rapid, and is still increasing steadily. As late as 1889 it was only 1,644,278 tons ; in 1899 it had risen to 2,358,705 tons. Among the largest imports of the year 1899 were—

Coal ..	1,201,764 tons.	Iron and Steel	124,602 tons.
Wheat and Flour	127,718 „	Flax	36,557 „



BELFAST HARBOUR, FROM QUEEN'S BRIDGE.
Welch's Irish Views.

The largest exports included—

Cattle	..	114,988	Bacon	..	10,194 tons.
Linen	..	42,266 tons.	Eggs	..	11,550 ,,
Whiskey	..	29,692 ,,	Aerated Waters		11,084 ,,

On the Co. Down side of the river, half-a-mile below Queen's Bridge, is situated the famous shipbuilding yard of Messrs. Harland & Wolff, Ld., the largest shipyard in the world, giving employment to from 9,000 to 10,000 men. Amongst the finest vessels recently turned out by this firm may be mentioned the P. and O. boats *Oceania* and *Arcadia*, the White Star liners *Majestic* and *Teutonic*, the gigantic cargo steamers *Pennsylvania*, *Georgic*, and *Cymric*, the Union liners *Norman* and *Briton*, and the huge White Star liner *Oceanic*, the largest ship in the world. The



LAUNCH OF THE "BRITON"

output of this firm during the year 1899 was 82,634 tons—the largest output of any shipyard in the world. On both banks of the river stand the extensive yards of Messrs. Workman, Clark & Co., giving employment to about 4,000 hands.

The Queen's Bridge, which spans the river just above the harbour, is a handsome granite structure of five arches, erected in 1841-43 at a cost of £27,000, and

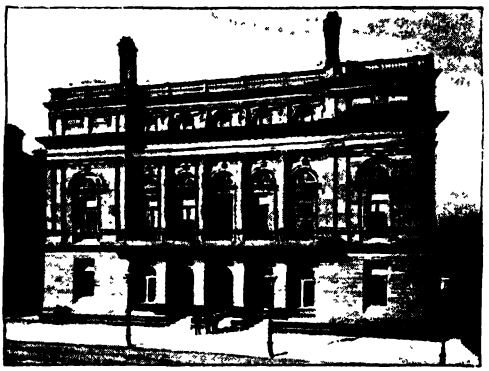
widened in 1885. It stands on the site of the old "Long Bridge," built in 1682–88, which crossed the formerly extensive shallows on 21 arches of Scrabo freestone. This bridge was so weakened by the passage of Schomberg's artillery in the year following its completion, that seven of the arches collapsed in the spring of 1692. The Long Bridge adjoined the site of the ancient ford from which the city derives its name. Three other bridges—the Great Northern Railway Bridge, the Albert Bridge (rebuilt 1890), and the Ormeau Bridge (1863)—cross the river at intervals above the Queen's Bridge in the order named.



ROYAL AVENUE, BELFAST.

The principal streets of the city are High Street and its continuation, Castle Place; Donegall Place, and Royal Avenue. The intersection of Castle Place, Castle Street, Donegall Place, and Royal Avenue may be looked on as the central point of the city. It is also, under the name of Castle Junction, the centre of the extensive tramway system, and through it a 2½ or 5-minutes' service between the various suburbs runs until late at night.

The public buildings of Belfast are not remarkable for their size or beauty, but they supply some good examples of solid and handsome work. The municipal work of the city has outgrown the capacity of the present Town Hall, an unpretentious brick building with red sandstone facings situated in Victoria Street, erected in 1871 at a cost of £30,000. The same amount has lately been paid by the town for the plot of ground on which stood the Linen Hall, erected in 1785 for the accommodation of the linen merchants, and removed in 1896; and on this site, the



FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, BELFAST

finest in the city, a new City Hall is now being erected at a cost of £200,000. The present municipal buildings include the Fire Station, recently rebuilt and re-organised, and now one of the most complete and up-to-date establishments of the kind in the three kingdoms. The Custom House is a handsome and solid pile of cut stone situated near the foot of High Street; and the Harbour Office, which stands near Clarendon Dock, has recently been considerably enlarged, and now forms a spacious and pleasing building. The Free Public Library, built of red sandstone, stands in

Royal Avenue, and is one of the best architectural features of the city: in addition to a Lending and Reference Library, it contains an Art Gallery and Museum, the latter recently enriched by the late Canon Grainger's gift of his large collection of antiquities and natural history objects. The Post Office, a massive building devoid of architectural beauty, also stands in Royal Avenue. The Albert Memorial is by far the most conspicuous public monument in the city. It is a clock-tower in the Venetian-Gothic style, 143 feet high, and occupies a fine position at the foot of High Street. It was designed by the late W. J. Barre, and was erected by public subscription in



QUEEN'S

1870. The seven public parks are all near the outskirts of the city. The Ormeau Park, 100 acres, is that best worth visiting; the Falls Park, 44 acres, has a fine situation on the slopes of the hills overlooking the busy western end of the city. One of the handsomest ecclesiastical edifices is the Carlisle Memorial Methodist Church, which stands at Carlisle Circus. The new Unitarian Church in Elmwood Avenue is also noteworthy as a quite exceptionally chaste piece of architecture. Several of the local educational establishments are distinctly ornamental, notably the Queen's College, a Tudor

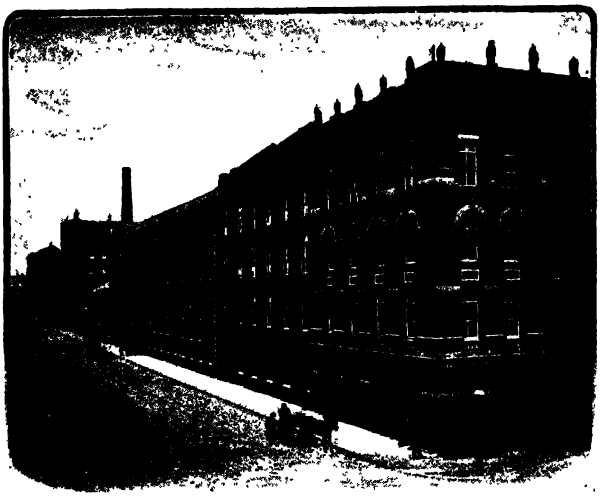
building with a front 600 feet in length, which Lord Macaulay declared was "worthy to stand in the High Street of Oxford." It was designed by the late Sir Charles Lanyon of Belfast. The Ulster Bank, situated in Waring Street, is a very handsome building of cut stone, and the same may be said of the Provincial Bank in Royal Avenue. The directors of the National Bank have recently erected a lofty and elaborate structure in High Street. The Museum of the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society in College Square North contains valuable collections illustrating the archæology and natural history of the district. The city is well supplied with hotels. Among the best are the *Grand Central* and the *Avenue*, in Royal Avenue; the *Imperial and Windsor*, in Donegall Place, the *Eglinton and Winton*, in High Street, the *Linen Hall* and *Donegall*, in Donegall Square, the *Commercial*, in Waring Street; the *Grand Metropole*, in York Street; the *Hotel Shaftesbury*, in College Square North; *Robinson's (Temperance)*, in Donegall Street; the *International (Temperance)*, in College Square East; and the *Northern Counties Station Hotel*, a charming bijou establishment, under the management of the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company.



FLAX PLANT
Linum usitatissimum
One-fourth nat size.

It is the enormous manufacturing concerns that make Belfast chiefly remarkable, and the visitor cannot fail to be struck with the huge dimensions of the buildings in which they are housed To the shipyards, which on the County Down bank of the river form quite a town of great iron and glass sheds, reference has already been made. The buildings in connection with the linen trade take a foremost

place among the striking features of the city. The premises of the York Street Spinning Company, for instance, present range upon range of tall four or five-story blocks, which cover four acres of ground. The works give employment to 4,500 hands, and contain 60,000 spindles and 1,000 looms; the capital of the company is half-a-million Some of the linen warehouses similarly are among the most striking buildings That of Messrs. Richardson, Sons & Owden, rising in Donegall Square



YORK STREET MILL, BELFAST.

North, is a noble structure of red sandstone, with columns of polished granite. Close by, at the corner of Donegall Place, rises one of the most conspicuous business edifices in the city, the huge shop of Messrs. Robinson & Cleaver. It is a five-story building, with a corner tower rising to a height of 150 feet, and is built of white sandstone, obtained from Scrabo Hill, near Newtownards. Numerous other imposing buildings connected with the linen industry, both

factories and warehouses, occupy the streets of the city. Some brief particulars relative to the growth and present extent of the linen trade, of which Belfast is *par excellence* the centre in the British Isles, may be of interest.

The manufacture of linen in Ireland is, without doubt, of very great antiquity. The linen garments of the Irish are referred to by Giraldus Cambrensis at the end of the 12th century. Froissart, in the time of Richard II, relates that Henry Castide, an Italian traveller, told him—"I caused breeches of *linen cloth* to be made for the four kings of Ireland when I was there." In 1245, Walter de Burgo, Earl of Ulster, had parcels of linen woven at Newtownards for his household. In 1572, Queen Elizabeth granted one Thomas Moore a license to transplant from Ireland



BLEACH-GREEN.

8,000 packs of linen yarn in five years. The Mayors of Dublin and Drogheda, with others, petitioned for the withdrawal of the license, asserting that 3,000 packs was a greater quantity of yarn than the whole kingdom of Ireland could produce in that period. The State Papers and other documents show that until the latter part of the 17th century the manufacture of linen appears to have met the demands of the home market alone, and until the 18th century linen has no place in the exports of Belfast. In the time of Charles I., the Earl of Strafford, Lord Deputy, interested himself in the linen manufacture, and introduced improvements in flax-growing and in weaving. The revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 was directly responsible for a stimulus to the local manufacture of linen goods. Huguenot refugees, settling at that time in Ulster, brought with them a knowledge of the manufacture of damask and cambric, and of improved methods in the bleaching and preparation of linen. It was, however, a political measure, and one that Ireland had every cause to

bitterly resent, that gave the greatest impetus to the trade. In the reign of William of Orange, both Houses of Parliament represented to the king that the flourishing woollen manufactures of Ireland were interfering with the same trade in England. The English manufacturers had to be protected. The Irish trade was suppressed, to the ruin of hundreds of industrious persons; and to this day it has never recovered from the blow. But as a set-off, the Irish linen trade, which did not interfere with business on the other side of the channel, was encouraged, and bounties and premiums were offered for the growth of flax and improvements in manufactured goods. In 1711 the Irish Linen Board was appointed by Queen Anne for the further development of the industry, and it continued its offices until 1828, distributing annually a sum of £20,000 for the encouragement of the trade. In 1729, and possibly earlier, there was a yarn and linen market in Belfast. In 1739 the first Linen Hall was projected, and some twenty years later was replaced by more commodious premises in Donegall Street, which were in 1773 removed to the site in that street which now stands vacant—a deserted spot of grass and weeds. In 1784 a new Linen Hall, a large quadrangular building that until a few years ago occupied Donegall Square, was erected at a cost of £10,000, and became an important centre of the trade. Meanwhile, mills had been springing up in the town and all over the surrounding district, bleach-greens had been established in many places, and to spinning and weaving were added dyeing, colour-printing, &c. The number of hands employed in flax-mills and factories in Ireland in 1850 was 21,121; in 1871, 55,039; in 1896, 68,604, being more than half as much again as the total number employed in the same trades in England and Scotland combined: the numbers quoted apply almost entirely to Ulster, and the great proportion belongs to Belfast. To these figures, if we wish to get at the number of persons employed in the trade, must be added the large number of hands employed in bleach-greens, scutch-mills, dyeing and printing works, and linen warehouses. The total number of hands employed is thus raised to over 100,000, and the money disbursed among them annually is reckoned at nearly three millions sterling. The total value of the linen trade of Ulster is about £12,000,000 per annum.

The large supply of flax required to feed these manufactures is grown partly in Ireland, partly abroad, but the Irish production is decreasing. "Flax-growing in Ireland is steadily on the decline," is the blunt statement in the Report of the Linen Merchants' Association for 1896: how great the decrease has been is shown by the fact that in 1886 the gross supply of flax and tow in Ireland was 39,461 tons, of which 23,151 tons was home production, and 16,310 tons imported; while in 1898, the gross supply of 40,721 tons was made up of 6,281 tons grown at home, and 34,440 tons imported. The decrease of flax culture has been especially marked in the last few years. Comparing the agricultural statistics of 1896, 1897, and 1898, we find that in the province of Ulster (where about 99 per cent. of Irish flax is grown), 71,681 acres were under this crop in 1896, 45,229 acres in 1897, and 34,215 acres in 1898. The falling-off of flax culture in Ireland is a serious matter, which the northern merchants are anxiously considering.

But it is not only in linen manufacture and ship-building that Belfast excels. The largest ropeworks in the world—the premises of the Belfast Ropeworks Company—may be visited on the banks of the Connswater. The rapid growth of this concern is characteristic of Belfast. It was founded in 1872—only 28 years ago. Now, the works cover 45 acres of ground, and give employment to over 3,000 hands and an office staff of 100 clerks. Another gigantic and growing concern is the tobacco factory of Messrs. Gallaher, Ltd. Their new premises in York Street, recently erected at a cost of over £100,000, built of red brick, and of great extent, form one of the finest business buildings in the city. This immense concern is the creation of Mr. Thomas Gallaher, a native of Londonderry. It is now a limited liability company, with a capital of £1,000,000, employing in their Belfast house alone over 1,000 hands, and paying duty in Belfast of nearly one million sterling annually. Printing and chromo-lithography constitute another highly important industry. The extensive establishments of M'Caw, Stevenson & Orr, David Allen & Sons, and Wm. Strain & Sons are well worthy of a visit. Among the other large businesses of the city may be mentioned distilling, provision-curing, founding, milling, and the manufacture of biscuits, mineral waters, matches, and preserves.

The important duties of providing water, light, and drainage for the rapidly-growing city have been met at intervals by engineering works of considerable magnitude. As early as 1682 the town possessed a small supply of water, brought in wooden pipes from "Tuck Mill Dam." Previous to this time the water of the river had provided for the requirements of the place. In 1795 the Marquis of Donegall granted a lease of certain springs near Fountainville, and the water was conveyed into the town and distributed by means of wooden pipes. The esteemed Cromac Springs were also used, and at the present time

Cromac water is still sold in the streets. In 1840, by Act of Parliament, Water Commissioners were appointed, and the existing basins on the Antrim Road were constructed, and completed in 1849. In 1865 powers were obtained to secure the water of the Woodburn River, near Carrickfergus, and, in 1879, to extend those works to Copeland and Lough Mourne. In 1884 the extensive works at Stoneyford, above Lisburn, were put in hands. This brought the supply up to 11,000,000 gallons per day and a storage capacity of 2,405,000,000 gallons; but the demand for water still increased, and in 1893 the Commissioners embarked on a scheme of great magnitude, by which a supply equalling all the present supplies put together will be brought from a catchment area of 9,000 acres on the southern slopes of the Mourne Mountains, at a cost of about one million sterling. The extensive works in connection with this undertaking are now approaching completion. Operations on a similarly extensive scale have been undertaken to provide for the proper drainage of the city, and the outfall works of a comprehensive main drainage scheme have been recently completed at a cost of £300,000. The city is illuminated by gas and by electricity, under the management of a committee of the City Council, and Belfast is admittedly one of the best lighted cities in the three kingdoms. The Gas-works, which include an extensive water-gas plant, stand in Ormeau Road, and the fine new Electric Light Station in Albertbridge Road.

The railway stations of Belfast are three in number. The Great Northern Terminus, recently much improved, is in Great Victoria Street. The line runs up the valley of the Lagan, through Lisburn, and connects Belfast with Londonderry (100½ miles), Enniskillen (87 miles), Armagh (36 miles), Cavan (80 miles), Newry (45 miles), Warrenpoint (51 miles), Dundalk (59 miles), Drogheda (81 miles), and Dublin (113 miles). The Belfast and Northern Counties Railway has a fine terminus at the end of York Street, rebuilt and much enlarged during the recent

years. This line follows the northern shore of the lough, and turns inland at Greenisland, a branch proceeding along the shore to Carrickfergus (9½ miles) and Larne (24 miles); the main line passes through Ballymena (33 miles) and Coleraine (57 miles) to Portrush (63 miles) and Londonderry (95 miles). The terminus of the Belfast and County Down Railway is situated on the Down bank of the river, near Queen's Bridge. We shall have occasion to refer at length to the history and connections of this line later on.

A loop-line (Great Northern Railway), passing through the southern side of the town, connects the Great Northern main line with the County Down Railway, and with the quays on both sides of the river.

The points which will probably strike the visitor to Belfast are the modern aspect of the city, the size of the business concerns, the absence of open spaces, the bustle in the streets, and the excellence of the lighting and of the tramway system.

ANTIQUITIES.—Belfast is, as already remarked, essentially a modern town, and the relics of antiquity to be found within its bounds are almost *nil*. Of the ancient Castle, the Chapel of the Ford; the brewhouse, storehouse, and mill which the Earl of Essex built, the town walls, not a trace now remains; and the continual improving and widening of the thoroughfares have done away with almost all the shops and houses erected in the early days of Belfast prosperity. The most striking antiquities in the neighbourhood—the Giant's Ring and MacArt's Fort—are older than the town, older than the fortress that preceded the town. The Giant's Ring, a magnificent circular earthwork some 580 feet in diameter, lies on the Co. Down side of the Lagan, 5 miles from the centre of the city. It occupies a commanding position overlooking the river. In the centre of the green sward which it encloses stands a cromleac or dolmen. The

Giant's Ring is stated by Ferguson in his *Rude Stone Monuments* to be the largest circle of its kind in the British Isles, Avebury alone excepted. Two miles beyond the Giant's Ring is situated the little village of Drumbo, where stand the remains of one of the famous round towers of Ireland. Only 32 feet in height of the tower remain, but the small square-headed doorway in the characteristic elevated position remains intact. A visit to MacArt's Fort, another prehistoric earthwork, involves



BELFAST CASTLE AND CAVE HILL.

the climbing of the Cave Hill, the beautiful precipitous mountain which rises over the northern suburbs. This is an excursion that should not on any account be missed. A frequent tram service from Castle Junction conveys the visitor 3½ miles to the termination of a well-made public path (one mile long) which leads from the Antrim Road to the summit of the mountain (1,188 feet). On the ascent will be noticed the three small caves, set one above the other in the face of the cliff, from which the hill takes its name. MacArt's Fort is perched on a projecting point of the cliff. On two sides the

precipice drops sheer for several hundred feet; on the other sides a deep fosse and rampart protect this dizzy refuge. The view on a clear day from this point is exceedingly fine. To the right, far below, lies the busy city, with its spires and factory chimneys piercing the smoke, and the wooded valley of the Lagan, flanked by the basaltic hills, on one of which we stand. In front, on the slope below us, we see Belfast Castle, the seat of the Earl of Shaftesbury. Beyond, the upper portion of Belfast Lough is at our feet, backed by the fertile fields and hills of Co. Down. In the distance rise Slieve Croob, in the centre of Down, and the blue peaks of the Mourne Mountains; eastward stretches the lough, the little town of Holywood on one side, the ancient keep of Carrickfergus on the other; and it widens into the broad expanse of the Irish Sea, across which the coasts of Scotland and the Isle of Man are clearly visible. Strangford Lough lies to the south-east, and westward extends Lough Neagh, backed by the mountains of Tyrone and Derry. A few relics of antiquity which lie near the eastern suburbs of Belfast will be mentioned in our itinerary of the County Down Railway district.

NATURAL HISTORY.—GEOLOGY.—Belfast is one of the best centres in Ireland for geological excursions. The great interest of the neighbourhood lies in the high plateau of Tertiary basalts, the escarpment of which rises immediately to the northward, and in the series of Mesozoic rocks—the only Secondary Sedimentary rocks in Ireland—which underlie them, having been protected from the ravages of denudation by the thick lava sheets above. The valley in which Belfast stands has a floor of Bunter sandstone, overlain all along the Antrim slope by Keuper marls. Above these beds we find, in ascending order, Rhætic shales, Lower Lias clays, Lower Greensand, and Upper Chalk, capped by the massive Eocene lava-flows, with which beds of bole and lithomarge are interstratified. The Triassic rocks in the valley are mostly obscured by thick deposits of Boulder Clay and of red glacial sands, and at the upper end of the lough by beds of marine clays of post-glacial age. The Rhætic, Lias, Greensand, and Chalk, as well as the Boulder Clay and post-glacial beds, have yielded numbers of characteristic fossils, for lists of which the geological works mentioned on p. 48 must be consulted. The series of Mesozoic rocks and the lavas which

cap them form sections of the highest interest, and the bright red sandstone, snow-white Chalk, and dark basalts contribute in no small degree to the scenic effects of the district. The Chalk and basalts, and their junction, marked by a red band of burnt flints, are finely displayed in the quarry at the southern end of the Cave Hill, which is approached by the Cave Hill Road, where also may be seen superb examples of basaltic dykes piercing both the Cretaceous rocks and the lower lavas above them. The Rhætic beds are best exposed in Colin Glen, five miles west of Belfast, where they have yielded fish remains and other fossils in abundance. In the same place the Greensand is seen to advantage, and also in Woodburn Glen, near Carrickfergus.

On the southern side of the Lagan valley the Triassic rocks rest directly on the enormously older grits and slates of the Silurian and Ordovician systems, which cover the greater part of Co. Down.

Good sections of the Lower Boulder Clay may be seen in quarries and the edges of streams in many places, full of the characteristic scratched and polished stones, which include many from North Antrim and the coast of Scotland. The drift has yielded marine shells at a number of spots in the neighbourhood, notably in a bed cut through in making the clear-water basin on the Antrim Road in 1842–43, when forty species were collected by Messrs. Bryce and Hyndman. *Leda pygmæa* has been found at Knock Glen and at Woodburn with the valves in juxtaposition. Around the city thick beds of fine red sand rest on the Boulder Clay. At Knock they are interstratified with gravels and bands of Boulder Clay, which yield arctic shells. This series probably represents the "Middle Sands and Gravels."

The series of post-glacial beds that has already been referred to as underlying Belfast is of much interest. The lowest of these is a peat-bed, yielding remains of trees and marsh plants, and of Red Deer, Wild Boar, and Irish Elk. Above the peat are thick beds of marine clay, of a littoral character below, but yielding in the upper portions many shells which live in depths of five to ten fathoms. These clays have yielded a remarkably abundant fauna. About 340 species altogether have been recorded, including 180 species of Mollusca; and many of the species attain unusual dimensions. Raised beaches, yielding marine shells and rude flint implements, occur on the shores of Belfast Lough, as at the Kinnegar near Holywood, and at Kilroot.

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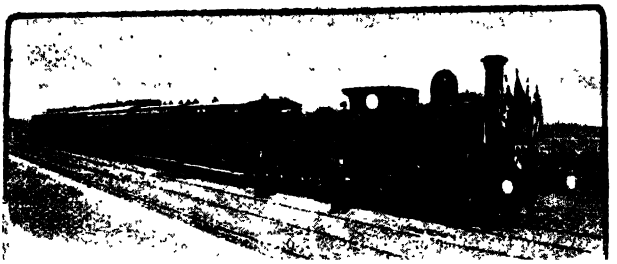
See also the references given under "COUNTY DOWN.—GEOLOGY."

ZOOLOGY.—The varied nature of the ground in the neighbourhood of Belfast renders it eminently suitable for the operations of the zoologist. The Lagan valley, with its low meadows, tall trees, and winding river; the deep glens, precipitous slopes, and high moors of the Antrim hills; the slob-lands, stony shores, and deep waters of the lough, all yield their harvest to the collector. The list of breeding birds calls for no special comment, but among the visitors some very rare species have been obtained, such as the Snowy Owl, Two-barred Crossbill, Black-billed Cuckoo, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Glossy Ibis, Bonaparte's Gull, Surf Scoter, and Wilson's Petrel. The Fishes of Belfast Lough will be found enumerated in Mr. Patterson's work, already mentioned (p. 25). Of Invertebrate Animals, the Mollusca of Belfast Lough have been already referred to (p. 24). The Land Mollusca of the neighbourhood include some good species, such as *Helix lamellata*, *H. fusca*, *Acme lineata* and var. *alba*, *Vertigo antivertigo*, *V. edentula*, and *Pupa anglica*. The Insect fauna is tolerably rich, and some rare forms occur. The following *Lepidoptera* may be mentioned:—Camberwell Beauty (*Vanessa antiopa*), Striped Hawk-Moth (*Deilephila livornica*), Double-lobed Moth (*Spamea phiogramma*), Anomalous Moth (*Stilbia anomala*), Northern Drab (*Tæniocampa opima*) and var. *brunnea*, Small Waved Umber (*Phibalapteryx vittata*). Among the Beetles, numerous rarities have been taken by Haliday in the neighbourhood of Belfast. Such are *Carabus clathratus*, a fine golden-spotted ground-beetle, very rare in its occurrence in England; *C. glabratus*, *Nebria Gyllenhali*, *Gymnusa brevicollis*, and *Micropeplis tesserula*.

REFERENCES.—See under "COUNTY DOWN—ZOOLOGY."

BOTANY.—The flora of the vicinity is decidedly rich. The basaltic escarpment and its glens are the home of Alpine Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circæa alpina*), Mossy Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hypnoides*), about a dozen Hawkweeds, Winter-green (*Pyrola media*), Red Broom-rape (*Orobanche rubra*), Dwarf Juniper (*Juniperus nana*), *Equisetum trachyodon*, and *E. umbrosum*. On the Co. Down side, not far from the city, grow the Irish Rose (*Rosa hibernica*), Tassel Pondweed (*Ruppia spiralis*), and the rare Horned Pondweed (*Zannichellia polycarpa*). The edge of the Lagan, fringed with Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), Sweet Flag (*Acorus Calamus*), &c., is classic ground; and further to the westward, Lough Neagh and Portmore Lough offer some great rarities to the botanist. The shores of Belfast Lough on either hand are by no means devoid of interest: and one-day excursions may be easily made to the best parts of Down and Antrim. The moss flora of Antrim contains many rarities, as will be seen by reference to the works on the subject. Belfast Lough offers all facilities for the study of the marine flora—rocky shores, good dredging-ground, and plenty of boats and harbours.

REFERENCES.—See under "COUNTY DOWN—BOTANY."



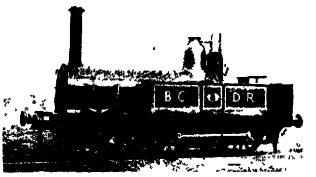
THE ROYAL TRAIN, B. AND C. D. RAILWAY, SEPTEMBER, 1897.

THE BELFAST AND COUNTY DOWN RAILWAY.

THE COUNTY DOWN RAILWAY COMPANY came into existence in the year 1846—in the very height of the great railway mania, when in England the whole country had gone "railway mad," when all kinds of impossible projects were being foisted by speculators on a credulous public greedy for gain—"railways through hills, across arms of the sea, over or under great rivers, spanning valleys at great heights or boring their way under ground, across barren moors, along precipices, over bogs, and through miles of London streets. No scheme was so mad that it did not find an engineer."* In that one year, 1846, applications were made to Parliament for powers to raise £389,000,000 for the construction of railways, or about ten times the total capital of the railways of Ireland at the present time; and powers were actually conceded for forming 4,790 miles (including 60 miles of tunnels), at a cost of about £120,000,000. But the billows that shook to its foundations the money market, and wrecked scores of rotten projects and thousands of would-be participators in them, beat but faintly on the Irish shores. In this country railway construction proceeded slowly, and perhaps more surely. The first Belfast and County Down Railway Act, passed in 1846, authorised the construction of a line from Belfast to Downpatrick, with branches to Holywood, Newtownards, Bangor, and Donaghadee. The capital of the Company was £500,000, its borrowing powers £166,666. Two years later, on 2nd August, 1848, the first portion of the line was opened—the four-mile branch to Holywood. We read in the *Belfast News-Letter* of 4th August:—"HOLYWOOD RAILWAY.—This branch of the Belfast and County Down Railway was first opened to public traffic on Wednesday. The line runs parallel with the Belfast bay, on the County Down side, and being a perfect level, the movement is very easy.

* Smiles: *Life of George Stephenson*, p. 410.

The carriages are fitted up very elegantly, and with every regard to comfort. The arrangements for the transfer of traffic are carried out with the utmost satisfaction and punctuality." The line from Belfast to Newtownards was next undertaken. This was a heavier piece of work, involving some deep cuttings and long embankments. It was duly opened on 6th May, 1850, the trains and stationhouses being gaily decorated with flags. About 1,000 passengers were carried on the first day. The latter half of this year was noteworthy as bringing with it the first dividend paid to the shareholders—a modest 2 per cent. At this time the Holywood traffic was worked by two little tank engines about 8 feet long, weighing 8 or 9 tons; for the Newtownards traffic the Company kept four tender engines, of which, however, only one was in daily use. The staff of the permanent way and locomotive departments combined consisted of 4 fitters, 1 turner, 1 smith, 1 labourer, and 1 apprentice! High speeds were not indulged in. On one occasion, the only engine available being out of repair, all hands were called out—about 10 in all—to *push* the 3 o'clock train to Holywood. On the Newtownards line, which descends a long hill into the Belfast terminus, in order to save shunting, the engine was uncoupled when descending the hill, and steamed on in front into a siding, the train following to the platform by its own momentum. Men working near the

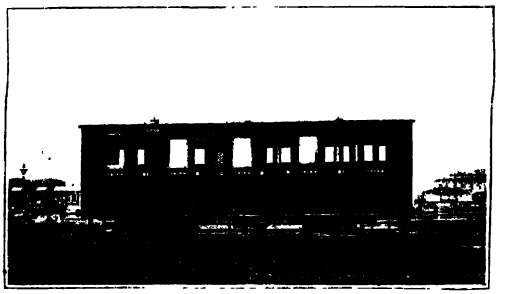


AND C. D. R. ENGINE—OLD STYLE (1848).

B. AND C. D. RAILWAY ENGINE—NEW STYLE (1898).
(On same scale as Old Engine.)

terminus assisted the brakesman, who stood on the top of a carriage, to check any superfluous speed, by throwing stones and pieces of timber on the rails in front of the vehicles. In those days the directors took a very practical interest in the working of the railway, and were not above assisting the staff by serving out tickets on crowded holidays. On one Easter Monday, a great rough fellow, elbowing his way to where one of the directors, Mr. Robert Gray, a venerable white-haired gentleman, was thus employed, requested a ticket to Dundonald in the following terms:—"Hi, you young maun wi' the white heed! gae's a tecket for Graham's brig."

The next work undertaken was the extension of the line from Comber to Ballynahinch. The district traversed had a hummocky surface of hard grits and slates, through which some expensive cuttings had to be made, and we find that between the years 1855 and 1860 the capital expenditure jumped from £283,670 to £614,595. The Ballynahinch connection was opened to the public on 10th September, 1858. On this auspicious

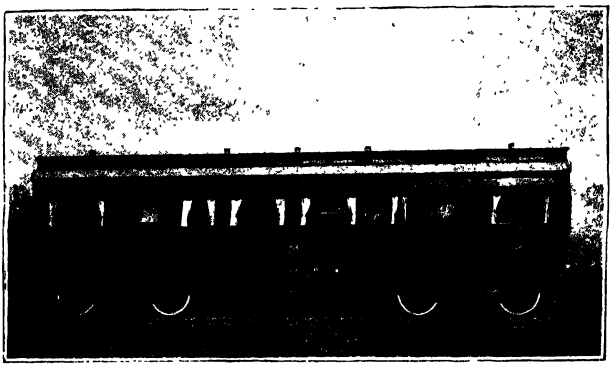


B. AND C. D. R. CARRIAGE—OLD STYLE (1873).

day an accident occurred close to Belfast terminus which curiously illustrates the flimsy construction of the old-time locomotives. A stray telegraph wire caught the funnel of an engine running a train into Belfast, and pulled it off, the driver narrowly escaping injury. During the evening, we are informed, the damage to the locomotive was made good by the engineering staff. In the following year, the extension of the main line to Downpatrick was completed.

In 1860, the Belfast, Holywood, and Bangor Railway Company was incorporated. They built the line from Holywood to Bangor, which was opened in 1865, and in the same year they took over the Holywood branch of the County Down Company, the terms of sale being £50,000 cash and a rent of £5,000 in perpetuity. At the same time the County Down Company formally abandoned their proposed branch from Conlig to Bangor. The year 1860 was also marked by the cessation of the 2 to 3 per cent. dividend that had been paid since 1850. A long period of depression set in, and, with the exception of a feeble rally in 1870–72, the shareholders waited in vain for a dividend until 1877. In 1861, the Newtownards branch was

extended to Donaghadee. The Board of Admiralty had reported favourably on the Donaghadee-Portpatrick route for the mail-packets between Scotland and Ireland, and the Treasury undertook considerable improvements in these harbours; so the railway connections on both sides of the Channel were hurried forward and finished. The Donaghadee harbour works were finished in 1863, but Portpatrick harbour was not ready until two years later. In spite of the efforts of the Company, the Government decided in 1867 not to use the Donaghadee-Portpatrick route for the Irish mails. Notwithstanding this, a company was formed which ran a steam-



B. AND C. D. R. CARRIAGE—NEW STYLE (ROYAL SALOON), 1898.
(On same scale as Old Carriage.)

boat service, at first with considerable success, but it was eventually abandoned, owing to the difficulty of entering Portpatrick harbour.

In 1866 a company was incorporated to construct a line from Downpatrick through Dundrum to Newcastle, and this railway was opened in the spring of 1869, being worked by the Belfast and County Down Company. The popularity of Newcastle is well shown by the fact that on Easter Monday the morning train started with thirty carriages full of passengers, leaving numbers behind on the platform. From this year until 1871 the declaration of a small dividend—1 to 1½ per cent.—lit the gloom which had been settling on the shareholders, but a serious accident in the latter year plunged the Company into difficulties again. An engine left the rails at Ballymacarrett Junction, and a late excursion train from Newtownards dashed into it, telescoping the two first carriages. Two people were killed outright, and a number injured; and the bill for compensation ran to over £12,000. This was the only serious accident that has ever occurred on the railway. Such a misfortune was enough to stagger the already tottering concern, and the next few years must have been bad ones for the directors. In 1873 they obtained a lease in perpetuity of the Bangor line, but still the stock declined in value, and a climax was reached in 1875, when,

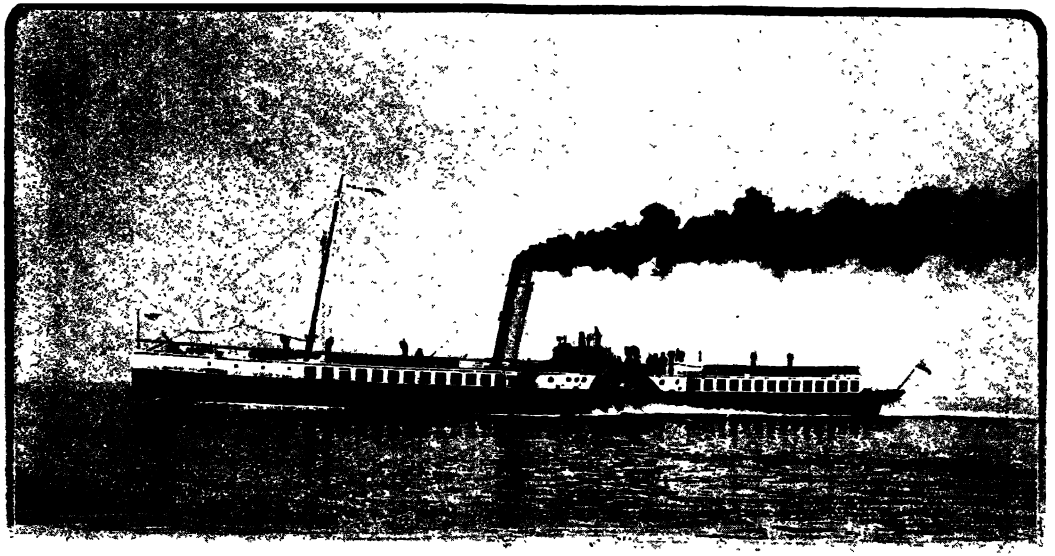


INTERIOR OF ROYAL SALOON CARRIAGE.

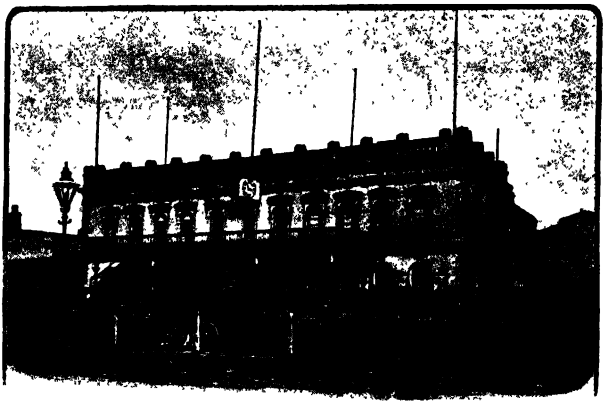
with no dividend and £24,000 arrears on preference shares, the £50 shares dropped to £10, and the directors resigned in a body, and the solicitors to the Company likewise.

Under a new directorate things began by degrees to look brighter, and the year 1877 saw the final emergence of the Company from the long period of depression which it had suffered. In the latter half of that year a dividend of 2½ per cent. was declared; this was maintained in the succeeding period, and then began with small fluctuations to increase. In 1881 the Newcastle Railway was purchased from the company that had constructed it, and in 1884 the Bangor line was similarly acquired, bringing up the mileage of the company's line to 68, and the capital expenditure to £1,009,918. The tram-miles run increased from 237,352 in 1880 to 437,607 in 1885, and the number of passengers from 676,329 to 1,455,165. The dividend touched 5 per cent at the end of 1883 and 6 per cent. a year later. This tide of prosperity was naturally accompanied by an enormous rise in the value of the stock. In the troubled year of 1875 the ordinary £50 shares sunk as low as 10, or £20 per £100 stock; in 1885 the stock touched 100¾, its lowest price in that year being 94½; and it continued to rise steadily. But the large earnings of the Company were not all spent in the paying of big dividends. Very large additions were made to the rolling stock, and the permanent way was by degrees relaid with 80 lb. steel rails. In 1891 the dividend rose to 6½, and that very satisfactory figure has been steadily maintained since. In 1892 the branch that connects Downpatrick with Killough and Ardglass was opened, and in the same year the construction of the loop line at Downpatrick across the marshes of the Quoile—the railway being, like Stevenson's line across Chat Moss, floated on a thick layer of brushwood spread on the surface of the morass—shortened materially the journey to Newcastle. In 1898 a new departure was taken, and two fast saloon steamers, specially built for the purpose, commenced a frequent service from Belfast to Bangor, with occasional pleasure cruises as far north as Portrush and as far south as Ardglass. Since then the replacement of old rolling stock with new engines and coaches of the latest patterns has proceeded apace. During the year 1897, four engines have been added to the locomotive stock, and twelve 50-feet bogie carriages constructed on the most modern principles, as well as a magnificent bogie saloon carriage—the cost of the additions to the rolling stock being no less than £25,000. The Company has lately completed the erection of a vast hotel, on a commanding site at Newcastle, close to the station and golf links, containing 120 bedrooms, splendid public rooms, baths of all kinds, the whole lit throughout by electric light, and standing in well-laid-out grounds of twelve acres At the present time the doubling of the line from Holywood to Bangor is being rapidly completed

At the present time we find the Company with a capital of close on a million and a quarter, running annually about 600,000 train-miles on a line 76 miles in length, and carrying annually over four millions of passengers. The Company's stock ranks as a most desirable investment, its price being 160 to 170; the 6½ per cent. dividend still steadily comes in; and in every way the Belfast and County Down Railway ranks among the most successful of local financial undertakings.



BELFAST AND COUNTY DOWN RAILWAY COMPANY'S S.S. "SLIEVE BEARNAGH."



COUNTY DOWN RAILWAY STATION, BELFAST.

III.

County Down Tourist District.

N.B.—All distances are given in English miles.

1.—BELFAST TO HOLYWOOD, HELEN'S BAY, AND BANGOR.

LEAVING the spacious terminus at Belfast, we see, on the left, the Abercorn Basin, and the great shipyards, with huge steamers in all stages of construction, from the gaunt steel ribs of a newly commenced vessel on the stocks to the finished ocean liner, spick and span, lying in the basin receiving her finishing touches at the hands of the painters. On the right stretch innumerable rows of artisans dwellings, vitriol works, and other factories, part of the suburb of Ballymacarrett, in itself an important town of some 80,000 inhabitants. Half-a-mile from the terminus, the main line of the Belfast and County Down Railway bends to the right; the Bangor branch proceeds across low land reclaimed from the sea, and crosses the Connswater, a stream which descends from the hills around Knock.

SYDENHAM (2 miles) is an important suburb, consisting largely of detached villa residences, surrounded by trees and shrubberies, built on gently sloping ground. On the edge of the sea to the north of the railway station large numbers of flint-flakes were recently found, with bones of Red Deer, Wild Boar, and Ox.* From Sydenham the railway follows the edge of Belfast Lough, here very shallow. The Cave Hill and chain of Co. Antrim uplands bordering the lough on the opposite side are seen rising boldly across the water.

The approach to **HOLYWOOD** (4 miles) is marked by the fine Roman Catholic church, with its handsome spire, built on a commanding site overlooking the lough and the Kinnegar (*coinicér*, a rabbit warren), a stretch of low ground enclosed by a raised beach and an embankment, and used by the War Office as a camp and rifle range. The raised beach has yielded marine shells, flint-flakes, and a few celts and spear-heads. Opposite the Kinnegar, on a park-like stretch of wooded sloping ground, stands one of the most thoroughly-equipped military barracks in Ireland, designed in accordance with every modern requirement. Holywood is prettily situated on a well-wooded slope rising from the shore of the lough. The hills behind the town attain a height of 659 feet, and afford charming views of the lough and the Antrim mountains to the northward, and of County Down and the Mourne Mountains to the southward. Holywood is an important residential place, with a population in 1891 of 3,389, and is to all intents a suburb of Belfast. Its history dates from very early times. A church was founded here by Saint Laiseran, son of Nasca, in the 7th century; and an adjoining ancient tumulus, or sepulchral mound, was called after him *Ard-mic-Nasca*, the mound of the son of Nasca. This tumulus may still be seen in the garden of Moat House, the residence of Miss Reade,

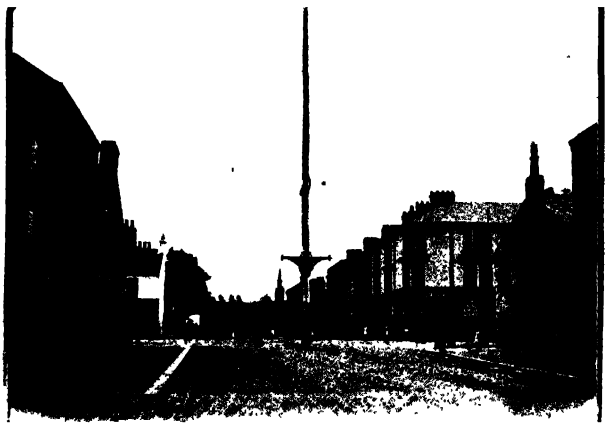
* W. H. Patterson, in *Journ. R.S.A.I.*, 5th ser., vol. ii., 1892.

adjoining Millbrook Street. The place is mentioned under the name of Ard-mic-nasca in several of the ancient books. The surrounding townland, which was named Ballyderry—the town of the wood—was referred to by the early English invaders as *Sanctus Boscus*, the Holy Wood, which name the town still bears. Early in the 16th century the church of Holywood was bestowed by Niall O'Niall on the Franciscans, who established a small monastery there. In 1572 this establishment was burned by Sir Brian MacPhelim O'Neill, Lord of Clannaboy, when he found that his lands had been given by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Thomas Smith, her secretary, and that Sir Thomas's son had landed at Strangford to take possession. The ruined church, which stands at the eastern end of High Street, and which was used for public worship till the present parish church was built, marks the site of the ancient establishment, and belongs to an early period of architecture The present parish church is a graceful building occupying a fine site overlooking the town. King John halted at Holywood on July 29, 1210, when on his way from Carrickfergus to Downpatrick. At the intersection of the two principal streets (High Street and Church Street) may be seen a tall Maypole, which is still decorated each May Eve. This is, so far as we can gather, the only genuine Maypole now left in Ireland. Maypoles formerly existed at Downpatrick, at the Stone Bridge in High Street, Belfast, and in a few other places in Ireland, such as Harold's Cross and Finglas near Dublin, Mountmellick in Queen's County, and in County Westmeath, but Sir W. R. Wilde says*:—"The Maypole never appears to have been in general use in Ireland, and is evidently an English introduction. In Connaught it is unknown." The Holywood Maypole is a fine spar rising 70 feet, and buried 12 feet in the ground. It was presented to the town about 25 years ago by Capt. John Harrison, D.L., and replaced a much shorter pole that

* Wilde: *Irish Popular Superstitions.* 8vo. Dublin, n.d.

occupied the same site. The Maypole used to be decorated with flower-decked hoops and green garlands on May-day, and later little boats on a pivoted frame and bushes of Gorse in full bloom have taken their place, and this custom is still regularly maintained.

It was in the parish of Holywood that John Templeton, the pioneer of Irish botany, discovered a new rose in 1795, which was named *Rosa hibernica* by Smith, the eminent botanist. The finder was awarded a premium of £5 for the discovery by the Dublin Society, and the plant still remains one of the botanical treasures of the neighbourhood



HOLYWOOD MAYPOLE

At Holywood the railway leaves the shore, and for several miles ascends a steep gradient. **MARINO** and **CULTRA** (*cúil traigh*, the corner of the strand) are pleasant seaside suburbs, with scattered villas overlooking the lough, and much boating during the season, as Cultra is the head-quarters of the North of Ireland Yacht Club.

Cultra is especially interesting to the geologist, as in its vicinity occurs one of the few exposures of Permian rocks in Ireland. The geology of the coast, as one walks from Holywood, is remarkably varied. Opposite the mouth of the Croft Burn, a bed of submerged peat occurs near low-water mark. A raised terrace of gravel overlooks the shore from that place to Marino. It rests on Boulder Clay, which in turn rests on Bunter sandstone, traversed by an occasional dyke of Tertiary dolerite. Between Seapark Terrace and Marino, close to the sea wall, is seen a small patch of dolomite of Permian age, unmapped and undescribed by the Geological Survey. At each side of Marino, Lower Keuper beds occupy the beach, and at Cultra Point they were formerly much quarried. A couple of hundred yards west of Cultra pier, a fault brings up the Lower Carboniferous shale with characteristic fossils, such as *Modiola Macadami*, and intersected by some fine dykes. Further east, opposite Rosavo, a small patch of yellow dolomite is seen between tides, resting on the Carboniferous; it contains characteristic Permian fossils, such as *Productus horridus Schizodus Schlotheimi, Bakewellia antiqua, Turbo helicinus.* It is cut off on the eastward by another fault, and the Carboniferous shales continue as far as Craigavad, where the prevailing rocks of Co. Down—the Ordovicians—crop out boldly

Burrowing in the soft sandstones near low water, and in the Boulder Clay that forms the floor of the beach in places, may be found the pretty shells of the Pholads, and here three species live together—*Pholas dactylus, P. candida*, and *P. crispata.*

The Permian dolomite was formerly exported to Glasgow for the manufacture of sulphate of magnesia; and although the supply was limited, it appears to have been a favourite local building stone, as it is found in houses and in the old church of Holywood, and in the castle and St. Nicholas' Church at Carrickfergus.

CRAIGAVAD (*craig-a-bhaid*, rock of the boat), six miles, is distinctly picturesque, and can boast many fine residences In the Cave Glen, half-a-mile from the station, is a souterrain, or artificial cave. The main chamber measures 16 × 5 × 6 feet high, and two low tunnel-like passages connect with smaller chambers, one on each side.

A pretty run of two and a-half miles, through well-wooded country with occasional lovely views of Belfast Lough, brings us to

HELEN'S BAY.

This is a spot of many attractions, which centre in the pretty coast scenery. The railway station is a picturesque structure, built in the old baronial style. A flight

of steps leads from the platform down into a large courtyard, where the three-mile avenue constructed by Lord Dufferin from Clandeboye House to the coast passes under the railway. If we turn to the right down the avenue, a ten-minutes' walk brings us to the shore. On the right is seen the shingle and sand of Helen's Bay; on the left, the copses and rocks of **GREY POINT**, whence we obtain a beautiful view of the lough and its shores, from the hills which overlook Belfast on the west to the Copeland Islands off Donaghadee on the east. The water off the point is very deep, and the ingoing and outgoing steamers sweep past within a short distance. From Grey Point a pretty walk of five miles, skirting the shore all the way, will bring us back to Holywood; and an equally attractive ramble of four miles in the opposite (east) direction leads us to Bangor. **HELEN'S BAY** is an attractive stretch of sand and shingle lying between Grey Point and Quarry Point; bathing is much indulged in here, and those who like a header will find deep water at high tide and suitable accommodation at the Horse Rock, directly opposite the end of the road that comes from the railway station. The water is delightfully pure. The beautiful sylvan and coast scenery, the bathing facilities, the shortness of the railway journey (about 20 minutes), and the convenient refreshment-rooms near the station, combine to make Helen's Bay one of the favourite resorts of the Belfast seeker of a day's enjoyment. **CRAWFORDSBURN GLEN** is a beautiful ravine, filled with trees and ferns, through which a stream finds its way from Crawfordsburn village to the sea near Helen's Bay. It is the property of Colonel Sharman-Crawford, D.L. **CLANDEBOYE**, the demesne of the Marquess of Dufferin, lies a couple of miles inland from Helen's Bay station. It may be approached by turning to the left from the station up the avenue, or by taking the county road through the pretty village of Crawfordsburn (population 95) to the main gate on the Bangor road. The name of



'S TOWI :OM THE LAKE.
Welch's *Views.*

the estate is derived from the ancient district of *Clannaboy* (*clann Aodha buidhe*, the clan of yellow Hugh, who was one of the O'Neills of Tyrone; with his followers he crossed the Bann in the 14th century, and establishing himself here, gave his name to the district). Clandeboye demesne is chiefly famous for **HELEN'S TOWER**, a building which has been the theme of verses by several of the greatest poets of the century. The tower rises on the top of a wooded hill overlooking the demesne, two miles beyond Clandeboye House, and forms a conspicuous landmark for many miles around. The woods which embosom it are filled with Bracken and Feather-moss, starred with yellow Primroses in spring, purple with Scabious in autumn. The view from the breezy summit of the tower is extensive and beautiful, embracing the rich woods and lakes of Clandeboye, Belfast Lough, the Antrim hills, the Irish Sea, the islands of Arran and Ailsa Craig, the coasts of Ayr, Wigton, and Isle of Man, the peninsula of the Ards, Strangford Lough, and the Mourne Mountains. The tower was erected about 1850, and enshrines some beautiful lines written by the mother of the present marquess, Helen, Lady Dufferin, subsequently Lady Gifford, grand-daughter of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, on the occasion of her son's coming of age in 1847; and the building is named after the talented authoress

TO MY DEAR SON

On his 21st birthday, with a Silver Lamp, on which was engraved "fiat lux."

How shall I bless thee? Human love
  Is all too poor in passionate words;
The heart aches with a sense above
  All language that the lip affords:
Therefore a symbol shall express
  My love,—a thing not rare or strange,
But yet—eternal—measureless—
  Knowing no shadow and no change.
Light! which, of all the lovely shows
  To our poor world of shadows given,
The fervent Prophet-voices chose
  Alone as attribute of heaven!

At a most solemn pause we stand,
From this day forth, for evermore,
The weak but loving human hand
Must cease to guide thee as of yore.
Then, as thro' life thy footsteps stray,
And earthly beacons dimly shine,
"Let there be light" upon thy way,
And holier guidance far than mine!
"Let there be light" in thy clear soul,
When passion tempts and doubts assail;
When grief's dark tempests o'er thee roll,
"Let there be light" that shall not fail!

So, Angel guarded, may'st thou tread
The narrow path which few may find,
And at the end look back, nor dread
To count the vanished years behind!
And pray that she, whose hand doth trace
This heart-warm prayer—when life is past—
May see and know thy blessèd face,
In God's own glorious light at last!

In addition to these beautiful lines, verses by Robert Browning, Lord Houghton, Lord Tennyson, and Rudyard Kipling are associated with this favoured spot, and are copied on plates mounted in panels in the reception room.

HELEN'S TOWER.

Who hears of Helen's Tower, may dream perchance
How the Greek beauty from the Scæan gate
Gazed on old friends unanimous in hate,
Death-doom'd because of her fair countenance.

Hearts would leap otherwise at thy advance,
Lady to whom this Tower is consecrate!
Like hers, thy face once made all eyes elate,
Yet, unlike hers, was blessed by every glance.

The Tower of Hate is outworn, far and strange:
A transitory shame of long ago,
It dies into the sand from which it sprang;—
But thine, Love's rock-built Tower, shall fear no change;
God's Self laid stable earth's foundations so,
When all the morning stars together sang.

April 26, 1870. ROBERT BROWNING

Helen's Tower, here I stand,
Dominant over sea and land.
Son's love built me, and I hold
Mother's love engraved in gold.
Love is in and out of time;
I am mortal stone and lime.

Would my granite girth were strong
As either love, to last as long!
I should wear my crown entire
To and through the Doomsday fire,
And be found in angel eyes
In earth's recurring Paradise.

ALFRED TENNYSON.

Helen's Tower also contains, on a large gilt tablet, the verses by Rudyard Kipling, in which the women of India

return homage to Lady Dufferin for her philanthropic work while Lord Dufferin was Viceroy. We can quote only two verses :—

THE SONG OF THE WOMEN.

(Lady Dufferin's Fund for medical aid to the Women of India.)

How shall she know the worship we would do her?
The walls are high and she is very far.
How shall the women's message reach unto her
Above the tumult of the packed bazar?
Free wind of March, against the lattice blowing,
Bear thou our thanks, lest she depart unknowing.

Go forth across the fields we may not roam in,
Go forth beyond the trees that rim the city
To whatsoe'er fair place she hath her home in,
Who dowered us with wealth of love and pity.
Out of our shadow pass and seek her singing—
"I have no gift, but Love alone for bringing."

Sir Walter Scott has sung the beauties of Clandeboye. In *Rokeby*, canto v., he makes Redmond O'Neale lament—

"Ah, Clandeboye! thy friendly floor
Shieve Donard's oak shall light no more;
Nor Owen's heart, beside the blaze,
Tell maiden's love or hero's praise!
The mantling brambles hide thy hearth,
Centre of hospitable mirth;
All undistinguished in the glade
My sires' glad home is prostrate laid,
Their vassals wander wide and far,
Serve foreign lords in distant war,
And now the stranger's sons enjoy
The lovely woods of Clandeboye!"

The reference is to the transfer of the estates of Con O'Neill of Clannaboye. A quarrel of O'Neill's followers with the Excise officers at Connswater was made the pretence of rebellion and of his incarceration in the castle of Carrickfergus; after his assisted escape from which, his lands were bestowed by arrangement, in the second year of King James, between Con himself, Sir Hugh Montgomery, and James Hamilton, the ancestor of the present owner.

The pedestrian may vary the return from Helen's Tower by dropping down on Newtownards (2 miles) across the heather and rocks of **CONLIG HILL**, visiting, as he passes, the lead mines situated there. Some interesting plants grow on Conlig Hill, such as the Marsh St. John's-

wort (*Hypericum elodes*), Winter-green (*Pyrola media*), White Mountain Orchis (*Habenaria albida*), Least Bur-reed (*Sparganium minimum*), Moonwort (*Botrychium Lunaria*), and *Nitella translucens*, which last also grows in great abundance in the little lake lying north-west of Helen's Tower.

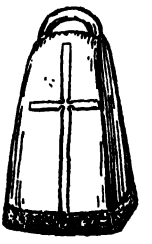
Resuming our railway journey, we pass out of Helen's Bay station and soon cross Crawfordsburn Glen on a lofty viaduct of five arches, and, looking down through the tree-tops, we get a peep of the shady walks and glinting stream far below. Now the line emerges on the hill-side, and the train draws up at **CARNALEA** station (*carn-a'-laogh*, the carn of the champion). The lough lies spread in front of us, with Carrickfergus Castle standing out in relief in front of the blue smoke of the ancient town, and Black Head and White Head rising over the broad stretch of sea to the north-east, where the blue peaks of Arran and the great dome of Ailsa Craig rest on the horizon. From Carnalea we obtain undoubtedly one of the finest views that it is possible to conceive of Belfast Lough. Here, on the undulating sward that rises over the rocky shore, the **ROYAL BELFAST GOLF CLUB** have their grounds. The "Royal Belfast" (the premier Irish Golf Club) originally had their links at Holywood, but removed to Carnalea in 1892. The course is only a nine-hole one, but is very sporting. There is a comfortable and ornamental club-house for the members, beautifully situated on the links immediately overlooking the sea and last green, and close to Carnalea station. There is a road from the station directly on to the ground. Visitors are allowed the use of club-house and green upon introduction by members, and payment of 5s. per week should the period exceed three days. There is a bathing-place available at all times of the tide just below the club-house. Now the line bends inwards through cuttings in the hard slate rocks, and 1¼ mile brings us to Bangor (12¼ miles).

BANGOR.

BANGOR (*beannchar* or *beannchor*, the pointed hills, literally horns) is deservedly one of the foremost watering-places in Ireland. For those whose tastes lie in the direction of yachting, boating, sea-fishing, or bathing, no finer resort could be found. Bangor acquired fame in early days on account of its great monastery, which for many centuries was one of the foremost seats of learning, not only in the British Islands, but in Europe.

Here, adjoining the bay anciently called Inver-beg (the little river-mouth), or Inver Becne (derived, according to the *Dinnshenchas*, a 12th century work, from Bicne, servant of Conal Cearnach, who was drowned here), or Inver Bece (after the favourite dog of Brecan the merchant), Comgall founded a monastery about the year 559. He was a native of Magheramorne, in Co. Antrim, and came of an illustrious family. Having studied in the great religious establishment of Clonenagh, in Queen's Co., he was ordained priest, and returned to his own neighbourhood to found the abbey of Bangor. The establishment, under Comgall's fostering care, waxed rapidly in size and importance, and, with the influence of the school established by Comgall's successor, St. Carthagus, it became, according to St. Bernard, "a noble institution, inhabited by many thousands of monks, the head of many monasteries, a place truly sanctified, and so fruitful in saints, which brought forth fruit so abundantly to God, that one of the sons of their holy congregation, Luanus by name, had himself alone founded one hundred monasteries." For eight hundred years this great monastery maintained its high reputation, and sent missionaries to many lands. Among the most famous of these were Gallus, from whom the Canton of St. Gall in Switzerland takes its name, and Columbanus, who founded the abbeys of Luxeuil in Burgundy and Bobbio among the Apennines, and had a European reputation. Cormac, King of Hy Bairrche in Leinster, retired to the peaceful cloisters of Bangor when weary of the cares of sovereignty; and among the students were St. Carthach, founder of the great college of Lismore, and St. Fintan of Doon. Tradition says that King Arthur obtained from this seat of learning some of his professors for Oxford. In the year 600, St. Comgall, the illustrious founder, passed away, at the venerable age of 90 years. From the *Annals of the Four Masters* and other early documents, we glean the history of the monastery. It was burned in the 7th and again in the 8th century: no doubt at this period the buildings were constructed of wood. But each time it rose again from its ruins, and century after century its great schools were thronged with students, and its missionaries went forth to every part of the known world. In 822 the Danes made a descent on Bangor, plundering the abbey and Comgall's costly shrine, and killing "the bishop, and his learned men, and his clergy." The Norsemen during the next two centuries harried the coasts con-

tinually, and the monastery often suffered at their hands, and at length began to decline in importance. In 956 we learn that the then abbot, Tanaidhe, was slain in one of these raids. When the celebrated St. Malachy came to Bangor in 1121 he found the monastery in ruins, and with the assistance of a few monks he erected a handsome oratory of wood; three years later he was elected Bishop of Down and Connor, though he was only thirty years of age. He continued to live at Bangor, and passed away in 1148, having done much to restore the fallen fortunes of the abbey. After the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, we find King John granting letters of protection to the Abbot and Canons. But the great monastery had had its day. In 1367 the Parliament enacted that no "mere Irishman" should be allowed to make his profession in a religious house situated amongst the English. In 1469, Pope Paul II thought well to hand over the depleted establishment to the Franciscan Order, and later it passed into the hands of the Augustinians, who possessed it at the time of the dissolution, when it was in an impoverished and dilapidated state. In 1623, when the erection of the present old Protestant church was commenced on the site of the abbey, considerable ruins appear to have still existed. The stone may have been used for the erection of the new building, for Father M'Canna in his *Irish Itinerary*, writing in 1643, says—"South-east of this [Newtownards] stood the monastery of Benchor, once the most celebrated in the whole world, of which even the ruins do not now exist. All that is to be seen there is a church." Harris, writing in 1744, says—"A small part of the ruins of St Malachy's building yet subsists." At the present time an old wall, about twenty-five yards long and four to five yards high, forms part of the northern wall of the garden of the vicarage, and a few carved stones of the Early English period lie near by—the only fragments that now remain of an establishment of world-wide fame. One priceless relic of this great abbey remains, though not preserved in this country. In the Ambrosian Library at Milan may be seen the ancient manuscript widely known as the *Antiphonarium Benchorense*, or Antiphonary of Bangor. This is a book of anthems, written for the use of the Church of Bangor in the seventh century. It was presented, with other Irish books, to the monastery of Bobbio, as would appear, by an Irish monk named Dungal, whose death is recorded in the year 834; and there it remained until 1606, when it was removed by Cardinal Frederick Borromeo to the newly-founded library in the capital of Lombardy. Another relic of interest is a bell of bronze of Early Celtic type, which was dug up about a hundred years ago on the site of the abbey, and of which a sketch is annexed. It is now in the possession of Colonel M'Cance, of Holywood. A bronze seal, of fourteenth century date, belonging to Bangor Abbey, was found many years ago among the ruins of Saul, near Downpatrick, and is now in the Royal Irish Academy collection. It bears the abbreviated inscription, *S. R. Pris Johannis Kenedy Abis de Bangor*—the seal of the Reverend Father



OLD BELL OF BANGOR ABBEY.



SEAL OF JOHN KENEDY, ABBOT OF BANGOR, 1895.

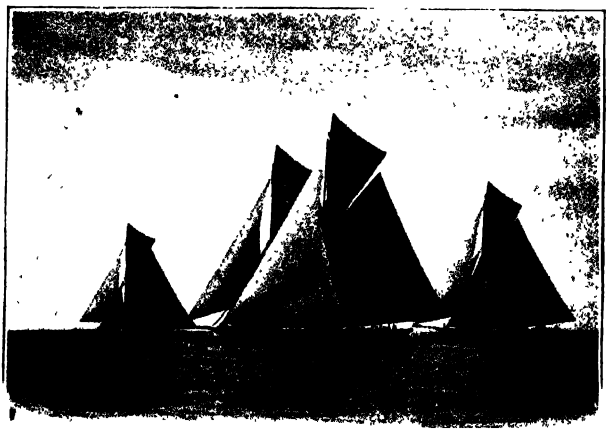
John Kenedy, Abbot of Bangor—and the figure of an abbot standing in a niche of Gothic architecture, his left hand holding the crozier, and his right raised in the act of giving benediction. This relic of the famous monastery was appropriately adopted as their corporate seal by the Belfast, Holywood, and Bangor Railway Company.

The town had its origin in the group of fishermen's huts erected on the shores of the bay, and the probably older hamlet that sprang up in the vicinity of the abbey. The latter colony still preserves a quaint and old-time appearance.

The Bangor of to-day is a prosperous place, with a population of 3,834 in 1891. Close by the site of the ancient monastery rises the spacious railway station; and in the bay, where again and again the dreaded Norsemen landed from their war-galleys, swift pleasure steamers drop their human freights at the new pier, and yachts ride at anchor amid the smaller fry of canoes and rowing boats. The hills that look down on the bay from east and west are covered with villas, rising terrace above terrace. The business of the town is conducted chiefly in Main Street, which ascends the slope from the sea to the market-house, near which stand three Presbyterian churches and a new Protestant Episcopal church. The chief industry of the town is embroidery, in which Bangor excels, and which provides employment for a large number of persons. Opposite the railway station, and adjoining the old parish church and the site of the monastery, is the fine demesne of R. E. Ward, Esq., D.L., which is open to the public on Saturdays. The house is

built in the Elizabethan style. Down by the quay is a picturesque fragment of an old building of Scotch design, used in the last century as a custom-house. A fine new pier has recently been opened, built of concrete and timber, and furnished with a band-stand. Here the fast steamers of the Belfast and County Down Railway Company discharge their passengers. The great attractions of Bangor are its pure air and sea, and its unrivalled facilities for bathing and boating. For gentlemen, two excellent bathing stations are provided—at the Pickie Rock on the west side of the bay, and at Clifton on the east side. In both places deep water is to be found at all states of the tide, and there is ample provision in the way of dressing-rooms, spring-boards, &c. Ladies have the use of these establishments at fixed hours; and at Ballyholme Bay, a mile to the eastward, a grand sandy beach is at their disposal. Bangor is the head-quarters of the Royal Ulster Yacht Club, of which the Marquess of Dufferin is commodore; this club's annual two-day regatta is one of the most important yachting events in Ireland, and attracts all the crack boats in British waters. Three sailing clubs are also established here, and matches take place continually. Boats of all kinds may be had for hire. The Bangor class of half-decked sailing boats has been already alluded to — stout, roomy, cutter-rigged craft, 30 to 40 feet over all, fit for any weather, and delightful for a day's pleasure. Their owners are experienced seamen, in whom perfect reliance may be placed Smaller boats of every kind—centre-boards, canoes, row-boats, swarm during the season, and on a fine summer day the bay presents an animated picture. Sea-fishing is to be had in abundance: for the kinds of fish caught and the manner of catching them, see p. 13. There is no want of good hotels at Bangor, and there is lodging accommodation in abundance, and great numbers of villas are let during the season.

A promontory covered with villas separates Bangor Bay from Ballyholme Bay (*Baile Choluim*, Collum's town), which adjoins it on the east. Here is a fine sweep of sand and shingle, a mile in length, bordered by villas built along the top of a high raised beach that overhangs the strand. This is a charming spot, sheltered from the east by the ridge which terminates in the low reefs of Ballymacormick Point. Further eastward lie Groomsport, the Copeland Islands, and Donaghadee, to be presently described. Westward of Bangor, pretty walks to Carnalea (p. 67) and Grey Point (p. 62) extend along the slopes which rise from the rocky shore. Helen's Tower (p. 64) is distant three miles to the S.S.W., and adjoining it are the village and lead mines of Conlig (p. 66), the Bangor Waterworks, and the "lovely woods of Clandeboye" (p. 62).



Cavell *Ailsa.* *Meteor.* *Britannia.*

START OF A BIG RACE AT BANGOR.

2.—BELFAST TO DUNDONALD, COMBER, NEWTOWNARDS, AND DONAGHADEE.

STARTING again from Belfast, we now take train for Donaghadee. The Bangor branch soon turns off on the left, and we follow the main line, which curves to the right and ascends steadily. On the left-hand side we pass close to the extensive malt-houses and stores of the Irish Distillery Company; and on the right, amid the teeming streets of Ballymacarrett, we note the tall chimneys of the Belfast Ropeworks Company. Now we pass over the "Holywood Arches," where the great thoroughfare which runs straight as a die through Ballymacarrett forks into two roads, that which leads to Holywood and Bangor keeping to the left, and the road to Comber and Newtownards to the right. **BLOOMFIELD** (1½ mile), a suburban station, is soon passed, and **NEILL'S HILL** follows at the end of a deep cutting through the glacial deposits. At Neill's Hill, on the right, may be seen sections of bright red sands, clays, and gravels. These are interesting glacial beds, apparently of the "Middle Sands and Gravels' series. The bedding is very irregular. In the clays marine shells occur, such as *Leda pernula*, *Astarte sulcata* and *borealis*, *Tellina balthica*, and *Buccinum undatum*; also many erratics.*

KNOCK (3 miles) is another suburban station, in a villa-studded valley. The Castlereagh (*caislean riabhach*, grey castle) Hills look down on it from the right, the Holywood Hills from the left. To the south of the railway station, the old graveyard of Knock is picturesquely situated on a hill-top; the church which it surrounded has now disappeared. A tumulus or pre-historic sepulchral mound rises close by; and from it presumably the place took its name (*cnoc*, a hill). On an eminence on the left,

* See Report of Geological Committee, in *Proc. Belfast Nat. Field Club* for 1893-94.

marked by a grove of trees, overlooking Belfast and the vale which we are traversing, stood in former times one of the strongholds of the O'Neills—a castle built within an ancient rath. Thither Con O'Neill retired when banished from his estates of Clannaboye. Until comparatively recent times the remains of this castle stood on Castlereagh Hill, and the story of their final disappearance is not without its touch of humour. Some local antiquaries, noticing that the ruins were suffering at the hands of men and cattle, prevailed on the landlord, the Marquess of Downshire, to enclose these relics of antiquity, for their protection. The Scotch land-steward, being a thrifty man, and casting his eye round to discover a convenient supply of stone wherewith to build his wall, ingeniously selected the crumbling ruins that stood near by, and as the wall rose, Con O'Neill's castle melted away, till at length the completed wall enclosed a smooth green sward!

On the left-hand side of the railway beyond Knock we see Stormont Castle, the seat of the Cleland family, at present the residence of Chas. E. Allan, Esq., an imposing mansion backed by wooded slopes. On the top of the hill behind, a little to the right, is a fine rath, now planted with a grove of fir-trees. As we approach the station of **DUNDONALD** (*dun Domhnaill*, the fort of Donall, or Donald, one of the O'Neills)—5 miles, pop. 95—we see on the left the large tumulus from which the little village takes its name. Hard by rises the square tower of the parish church, and beside it the lofty sepulchral monument of the Cleland family. On the right is a quarry in a boss of dolerite, which, flowing out as molten lava on the sandstone floor, has baked the underlying rock into a yellow quartzite. An afternoon may be well spent in examining the antiquities of this pretty spot. Leaving the station, we cross the Comber road, which here passes under the railway, and take a by-road on the right. Turning almost immediately to the left up a hill, we reach the parish church of Dundonald,

and examine the great sepulchral mound. Half-a-mile west of the church is the demesne of Summerfield, in which is a chalybeate spring which was formerly in great repute. In the Presbyterian church at Dundonald is preserved a curious wrought-iron chest, popularly supposed to have been taken from one of the wrecked ships of the Spanish Armada; but there appears to be no doubt that chests of this pattern date only from the last century, when they were manufactured in Nuremberg, and im-



THE KEMPE STONE, DUNDONALD.

ported into this country for storing valuables. Returning by the road by which we came, we keep straight on when we come close to the railway, instead of crossing the bridge to the right, and on the right in a few minutes' time we see a fine standing-stone close to the road. Following the road for a mile, we next visit a large rath or earthen fort that stands beside a farm-house a couple of hundred yards on our left. It is partially encircled by a hedge of Beech, much beloved of the fairies, for the occupier has told us how certain cows of his broke through the hedge, where-

upon they sickened, and one of them died. But the hasty replanting of the injured portion of the hedge appeased the fairies, who removed the ban, and the other cows quickly recovered. Half-a-mile further on we reach the demesne to Rockfield. If we turn to the left, after passing the gate-lodge, and cross two fields, we find one of the finest cromleacs in County Down, well known as the Kempe Stone. The townland in which it stands, now called Greengraves, was formerly known as Ballycloughtogal, "the town of the raised stone." The name evidently refers to the cromleac, and tradition says that a stranger warrior is buried there. The present designation points to the same tradition, *kempe* in Anglo-Saxon signifying a warrior. Human bones were found under the chamber when it was excavated about the year 1830. The cap-stone is 8½ feet long by 7 feet wide, and covers a square chamber formed of six large blocks. We may return by continuing northward across two or three fields, and turning to the left along the road which we will then meet, which will bring us back (2 miles) to Dundonald village, past a large quarry in the Bunter sandstone, formerly extensively worked.

From Dundonald the railway runs for three miles down the valley of the Comber river to the town of **COMBER** (8 miles). The name is derived from *comar*, a confluence, referring to the adjoining estuary of the Comber river, formerly called the river Enler. Its population was 2,051 in 1891; its industries are muslin weaving, spinning, and distilling. The large flax-spinning mill of Messrs. Andrews stands close to the railway. In the square in the centre of the town is an obelisk erected in 1845 "by his countrymen and companions" to Major-General Sir Robert Rollo Gillespie, K.C.B., a famous soldier with a romantic career.

He was born in 1766 at Comber, where his family owned some property. At 17 years of age he was appointed to a cornetcy in the 3rd Irish Horse. Three years later he secretly married Miss Annabell Taylor, whom he had

first met a few weeks before. Soon after, he fought a duel with a brother of Sir Jonah Barrington. They fought across a handkerchief, with pistols, and Barrington fell dead. Gillespie was subsequently tried on a charge of wilful murder, but was acquitted, despite the adverse summing-up of Judge Bradstreet. He went to Jamaica in 1792, and, caught in a hurricane, narrowly avoided shipwreck, escaping with some companions in an open boat across a mountainous sea. After a bad bout of yellow fever we find him in St. Domingo, where he saw much fighting and received several wounds. He returned to the West Indies after a brief respite, where he was attacked by a band of eight brigands. He killed six of them with his sword, and the remaining two fled. In 1806 we find him distinguishing



GILLESPIE MONUMENT, COMBER.

himself by a gallant feat of arms in a formidable mutiny of Sepoy troops. In 1811, Gillespie, now Brigadier-General, commanded an expedition into Java. In the following year he carried, with only 1,500 troops, a strong fort defended by 100 guns and 30,000 men. In 1812 he returned to India, and in 1814, when commanding the Meerut division of the Bengal troops in the war against Nepaul, he fell, sword in hand, shot through the heart, before the almost impregnable fort of Kalunga in the Himalayas, his last words being "One shot more for the honour of Down!" In St. Paul's Cathedral may be seen a monument to his memory by Chantrey, bearing date 1820.

There appear to have been two monasteries in Comber in early times, one belonging to the Augustinian order, the other to the Cistercian. The present parish church stands on the site of the latter, which was founded by the Whites, an Anglo-Norman family, in 1199. No trace of either monastery now remains. The present church contains monuments to several officers who fell in the battle of Saintfield in 1798. At Comber the railway to Newtownards and Donaghadee leaves the main line, and this branch it is our duty at present to follow. Leaving Comber we take a wide sweep to the left, cross the Comber river, and run N.W. and then N. On our right lies the shallow, sandy upper end of Strangford Lough; on our left rises steeply the fine hill of Scrabo, crowned with its lofty tower. Once clear of the flanks of the hill, the train sweeps in a wide curve round the outskirts of Newtownards, and draws up at the station (14 miles).

NEWTOWNARDS

is one of the most important towns of County Down. Its population is 9,197 (1891). It lies in the hollow at the head of Strangford Lough, with Scrabo rising boldly over its south-western end, and pleasant hills ascending gently on the north and east. The town is remarkable for its spacious streets, and houses all built of pink and grey Keuper sandstone. The district in which the town stands was anciently known as *Hy Blathmaic*, from the name of the tribe, "the descendants of Blathmac," who inhabited it. The place is referred to in Anglo-Norman times as *Villa Nova de Blaethwyc*, the New Town of Blaethwyc, subsequently changed to Newtownards, Ards being the name of the peninsula lying between Strangford Lough and the sea. A Dominican monastery was founded here by Walter de Burgo, Earl of Ulster, in 1244. In the fourteenth century the O'Neills erected a castle in the town, which was rebuilt and occupied by Sir Hugh Montgomery after the O'Neills were driven out. Sir

Hugh restored the fine Dominican church, which now forms a picturesque ruin at the end of Court Street, and otherwise encouraged the growth of the town. The old church or priory, as it now exists, shows a high square tower, and walls profusely mantled with ivy. Mr. R. M. Young* has elucidated its history, as shown by its architectural features. The whole of the south and half of the west wall are of thirteenth century date, and belong to



PRIORY OF ST. COLUMBA, NEWTOWNARDS.

the original church attached to the Dominican Priory of St. Columba. In the thirteenth century an aisle was added on the north side ; the columns and arches forming the nave arcade are excellent examples of the work of that period. Finally, in the reign of James I., Sir Hugh Montgomery added the tall square tower which projects from the external side-wall of the aisle. It is an erection

* *The Priory of St. Columba, Newtownards*, in *Journ. R. Hist. & Arch. Assoc.*, 5th ser., vol. v. (1879).

in Jacobean taste, containing an ornate doorway, with an elliptical arched head flanked by pilasters, and surmounted by a kind of pediment profusely sculptured with foliage and strapwork. On each side is inserted a small slab with a quaint text from the old (Henry VIII.) translation of the Bible carved in relief. Some interesting tombs and monuments will be found in the shelter of the ivy-clad walls, including a handsome cross of Celtic design, erected in memory of the late Marquess of Londonderry by his widow, and the fine altar tombs of the Colvil family.

In the main street near the old church stands a monument that embraces all that is left of the old town cross. It is an octagonal structure of Scrabo sandstone, bearing the arms of the Montgomery family carved in bold relief, and surmounted by a pyramidal top. An inscription, now almost undecipherable, states that the cross was erected in 1636, was thrown down by the rebels in 1653, and that as much of it as could be recovered was replaced in the present form in 1666. The octagonal pedestal appears to represent the original base of the cross, or at least to mark its site. Next to Newry, Newtownards is the largest town in County Down; it is an important seat of the linen and muslin manufacture, trades which give employment to a large number of persons. The churches of Newtownards—Protestant Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic—are all handsome edifices. The Episcopalian church was built by the great Lord Castlereagh at a cost of £7,000. These churches and the Model School are the most conspicuous buildings in the town, which consists chiefly of rows of artisans' dwellings, with door-jambs and lintels of Scrabo stone; through the open doors comes incessantly the busy rattle of the hand-looms. A market-house, with a roomy hall for meetings, a free library, and municipal offices, occupy the upper end of the large square in the centre of the town; and two good hotels adjoin. Beside the Belfast road, on the outskirts of the town, are situated the ex-

tensive gardens of Messrs. Alexander Dickson & Sons, whose roses have carried off the palm at innumerable flower shows in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

By the road to Donaghadee, on a slight eminence half-a-mile beyond the eastern end of the town, stand the ruins of the abbey of **MOVILLA** (*magh bile*, the plain of the ancient tree), a foundation much older than the busy town on which it looks down.

This church was founded about 540 A.D. by St. Finian; "*vir vitæ venerabilis, qui jacet in miraculis multis in sua civitate Maghbile*," the ancient *Book of Armagh* calls him. Finian, sometimes called Findbarr (*finn barr*, white top, "*a flavis capillis*"—from his yellow hair), was a very famous early ecclesiastic. He was educated by St. Colman of Dromore and St. Mochay of Nendrum. On his return from finishing his training in Rome, he brought with him a copy of the text of the Vulgate revised by St. Jerome, and this manuscript became famous throughout Ireland. The book was transcribed by St. Columba at Dromin, whereupon St. Finian claimed the copy, which led to the famous award of Diarmid, king of Ireland, who acted as arbiter in the matter—"To every cow belongeth her little offspring-cow; so to every book belongeth its little offspring-book." Columbkille, nevertheless, eventually regained possession of his copy, and to this day it is preserved by his descendant, Sir Richard Annesley O'Donnell, in a silver shrine made for its reception in the eleventh century. In ancient times the shrine was borne before the clan as a sort of battle-standard. The manuscript which it contains consists of the 31st to 106th Psalms, written in a small and uniform hand. St. Finian selected Movilla as the site for a new religious house, and under him it became one of the greatest schools in Ireland. One of the earliest pupils was St. Columbkille. St. Finian's memory was so much revered in old days that he was regarded as the patron saint of all this part of Ulster. The monastery which he founded flourished exceedingly, and for a long period was the seat of a bishopric. Colman, son of Murchu, was bishop here in the early part of the eight century. He it is believed to have been who wrote the beautiful hymn to St. Michael the Archangel, "one of the most venerable monuments of Christian antiquity now remaining in Europe," which begins—

"*In Trinitate spes mea fixa non in omine*
Et archangelum deprecor Michaelem nomine."
"In the Trinity my hope is fixed, not in an omen,
And the archangel I beseech, Michael by name."

Movilla maintained its importance until the dissolution of the abbeys in the reign of Henry VIII.

All that now remains of this seat of religion and learning is the ruin of an ancient church, probably of the 15th century. It measures 107 feet in length The

gables are almost intact, but the side walls much broken down. The large east window has been curiously altered, being closed up, except for a narrow circular-headed opening in the central division. The west gable has a smaller and more elaborately carved window. All over the ruin the Ivy-leaved Toad-flax spreads its graceful foliage and purple blossoms. From the earliest times Movilla has been a cemetery, and around the ancient abbey may be seen gravestones of all ages. Conspicuous among them is a fine series of Anglo-Norman slabs, now built into the wall of the church for security. These are tapered slabs of sandstone, bearing large crosses of varied design carved in relief. Some of them exhibit a sword, the symbol of a knight; while others have a shears, which signifies the grave of a lady. That which stands apart to the right *(see illustration)* is a very fine example. Another is remarkable as bearing an inscription in the Irish language—*or do Dertrend*—"a prayer for Dertriu," who is believed to have been an Abbot of Movilla in the 10th century. These monuments have been set down as belonging to the 10th to 13th centuries.* The graveyard is full of interesting tombs. It is still the



MOVILLA.
13TH CENTURY WINDOW IN WEST GABLE.



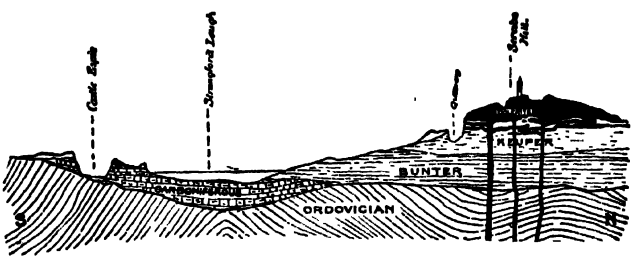
ANGLO-NORMAN GRAVE-SLAB, MOVILLA.

* See Patterson: *On some Ancient Sepulchral Slabs in the Counties of Down, Antrim, and Donegal. Proc. R.I. Acad.*, 2nd ser., vol. i., 1875

cemetery of Newtownards, and has recently been extended along the slope of a green hill which commands a beautiful view of the country to the westward.

A pleasant excursion, and one that is of special interest to the geologist, may be made from Newtownards to **SCRABO HILL** (*scrath bo*, the sward of the cows). We take the old road to Belfast, and pass the Model School. Going under the railway we turn to the left along a road which skirts the eastern base of the hill. A short ascent to the right brings us to the extensive quarries on this slope.

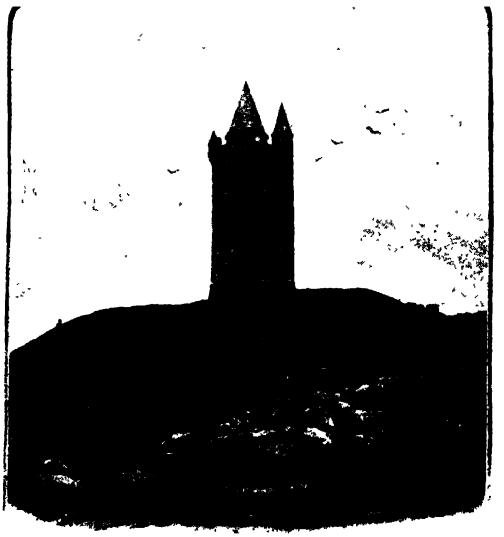
The mass of Scrabo Hill is formed of Triassic rocks—of ancient beds of sand, which accumulated even as do our present sandbanks. Through these beds, in early Tertiary times, molten lava burst. The liquid rock welled up through pipes and narrow cracks, often forcing its way along



DIAGRAMMATIC SECTION OF SCRABO HILL AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.

horizontally between the beds of sandstone, and finally flowing out over the surface of the sandstone to form thick sheets of dark basalt. During the enormous period that has intervened, the soft sandstones in the vicinity have been worn down by rain and frost and ice, and now occupy the low grounds around the head of Strangford Lough, and the valley-bottom along by Comber and Dundonald to Belfast Lough. But the sandstones of Scrabo have been protected from the ravages of denudation by the thick mass of hardened lava above them, and, still crowned by their volcanic cap, they stand out as a high bold hill over the surrounding plain. In the quarries, striking evidence of the ancient history of the hill may be seen. If we split up the blocks of sandstone that are everywhere strewn about, we shall find their surfaces ripple-marked exactly as our present sands are when the tide leaves them. Elsewhere they are sun-cracked, just like the

bottom of a muddy pond that is drained and exposed to the heat of day. Again, we may find the unmistakable prints of rain-drops, left by some old-time shower on the then soft material. In those ancient times the waves danced and the rain fell and the sun shone just like to-day. And in striking contrast to these evidences of peaceful waters we see the lava-filled fissures of the volcanic period, the sheets of basalt squeezed in among the sandstones, and the great cap of lava, several hundred feet in thickness, crowning the hill. The visitor will do well to keep to the left along the line of quarries, to note these striking features, and to ascend the hill on the south side, where quarrying ceases.



SCRABO TOWER.

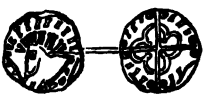
A short climb brings us to the summit (540 feet), where stands the lofty tower which was erected in 1858 to the memory of General Charles William Stewart-Vane, third Marquess of Londonderry.

This nobleman had a varied career. Born in 1778, he entered the army, and was lieutenant-colonel of the 5th Dragoons when that regiment was disbanded for insubordination. He was adjutant-general to Sir Arthur

Wellesley's army 1809 to 1812; subsequently envoy-extraordinary to Berlin and ambassador to Vienna; built a harbour at Seaham at a cost of £250,000; fought a duel with Henry Grattan; published a Narrative of the Peninsular War, and an 8-volume Life of Lord Castlereagh; and died in 1854, leaving vast estates in England and Ireland. Disraeli has portrayed him in *Vivian Grey* under the name of Col. von Trumpetson.

The monument is a square tower of black stone with pointed turrets, 135 feet high, visible from the hill-tops from end to end of the county. The view from its summit is very fine and extensive—all Co. Down, Co. Antrim, and the coasts of Scotland and Isle of Man. Strangford Lough lies spread to the southward in all its length of 20 miles, from Newtownards to Portaferry.

A large carn formerly stood near the summit of the hill, in the interior of which, in the good old times, Shane Macananty, the northern fairy king, resided and held his court. When it was removed, in 1855, a rectangular chamber about 5 feet by 3 feet, and 5 feet high, built of large blocks of stone, was disclosed. In the middle of it was a pile of charred bones and charcoal, and the decayed base of an urn that had presumably originally held these remains. The chamber was without any capstone, but a huge slab of 20 to 30 tons weight lay immediately below the lower end of the enclosure. Under the further extremity of this block a quantity of silver coins were discovered, of the type that were struck in Ireland about the 12th century in imitation of Danish and Norman coins; nearer the chamber lay an old pipe of the common 16th century pattern.*



HIBERNO-DANISH COIN FOUND ON SCRABO HILL.

Conlig Hill, which forms an interesting short excursion from Newtownards, has been already referred to on p. 66. Greyabbey, which lies on the shore of Strangford Lough, 7 miles south-east of Newtownards, will be described when the peninsula of Ards is dealt with.

Leaving Newtownards, the railway bends from west

* *Ulst. Journ. Arch.*, old ser., vol. iii. (1855), pp. 315-321, and plate.

to north, passes close to the wooded hill and village of Conlig, turns eastward again, and, striking the coast, bends sharply northward into Donaghadee station (22 miles).

DONAGHADEE

is well situated on the coast outside the limits of Belfast Lough, facing north-east. To the north lie the Copeland Islands, consisting of three—the Great Island, separated from the mainland by a deep sound a mile in breadth; and the Lighthouse Island and Mew Island, a mile further out to sea. Right opposite Donaghadee, at a distance of only 21 miles, rise the low cultivated hills of Wigtonshire, with the houses of Portpatrick on a clear day glinting in the sunshine. Northward and southward stretches the coast, reefs of jagged Ordovician rocks alternating with creeks and sandy bays. Inland, the country is low and hillocky, and highly tilled. On account of its position, the rainfall at Donaghadee is remarkably small. It stands in high repute for the salubrity of its climate; and for these reasons the place is in great favour among Belfast people as a place of residence during the summer months, and for daily excursions. The town consists of a long street sweeping round the bay, at the southern end of which are the harbour and railway station, and of several inland streets. Muslin embroidering gives employment to a large number of the inhabitants. The population in 1891 was 1,886. The harbour is a fine piece of work, a sum of £145,000 having been spent on it in the years 1821-34, and further sums in the early "sixties." It consists of a pier and an outlying break-water, both built of grey Anglesea limestone. On the pier stands a lighthouse, showing a fixed red and white light, visible 12 miles. Between Donaghadee and Portpatrick postal communication was long carried on. At first, sailing boats crossed at irregular intervals, but in 1662 a weekly service was established, and in 1790 the Post Office contracted for a daily mail. In 1837 the Admiralty took over the service,



DONAGHADEE FROM THE CHURCH TOWER.
Welch's Irish Views.

and maintained daily communication by the small steamers *Arrow* and *Dasher*, which were replaced by the *Spitfire* and *Fury*, 97 feet long, 6½ feet draft, 50 horse-power, and speed 8 knots. The greater shelter afforded by the harbours of Larne and Stranraer has resulted in the selection of this route for the present traffic. Two miles south of Donaghadee, submarine telegraph and telephone cables cross to Scotland. The origin of the name of the town is not quite clear. Donagh or *Domhnach* signifies a church. In some ancient books the name is spelt as if derived from *Domhnach dith*, "the church of loss." O'Curry supposes Donaghadee to have been the ancient Oirear Caoin, where King Dathi, the last pagan monarch of Ireland, embarked in A.D. 422 on his victorious expedition to Scotland, England, and France. An imposing relic of early times is left in the huge dun which rises in the town between Moat Street and Shore Street. On a high narrow ridge that has been scarped by the sea at some bygone time, and now presents a steep slope both seaward and inland, a huge mound was raised by some ancient people. A castellated building has been erected on the summit, and this was used as a powder magazine when the harbour works were in progress. As in so many places, the first church was built close by the pagan monument, and the present parish church, built in 1626 and enlarged in 1881, still occupies the site of the earlier edifice. In the grounds of the Roman Catholic church there is an ancient holy well. A mile south of Donaghadee by the seaside is the graveyard of Templepatrick; the ancient church which it formerly surrounded has quite disappeared. Popular tradition says that St. Patrick once landed here, and the mark of his foot is still pointed out on the rock hard by; a well of limpid water by the shore, known as St. Patrick's Well, is supposed to have the power of curing headache. Off Donaghadee, on April 24, 1778, the famous freebooter Paul Jones captured H.M. sloop *Drake*.

Bathing, golfing, boating, and fishing are the chief holiday amusements of Donaghadee. The bathing is excellent. At the Warren, ladies have the choice of a sandy beach or of deep water. In the mornings, gentlemen have the privilege of a plunge at the pier-head, and at all times at the Quarry Hole near the station, and at the Warren at the opposite end of the town. The golf club has an excellent 9-hole course on the Warren, open to visitors on very easy terms. Boating is largely indulged in. The big Donaghadee yawls—open boats up to 32 feet in length and rigged with two lugs—are famous. They are roomy, powerful, and fast, and continually cross to the Scottish side, the record time for the run being 1 hour 50 minutes. A serviceable class of 16-foot open boats are also much in demand. Plenty of sea-fishing is to be obtained along the rocky coast. Lythe (Pollack) are caught with the white fly in the morning and evening, and Blockan (Coal-fish) and Codling are abundant. The long-line fishers bring in plentiful supplies of the larger kinds. The gardens of the Manor House, the residence of Daniel Delacherois, Esq., D.L., which are generously thrown open to the public, supply the place of a town park. Donaghadee is abundantly supplied with lodgings, and there is suitable hotel accommodation.

NATURAL HISTORY.—Donaghadee is of considerable geological interest as furnishing the best section of fossiliferous Ordovician and Silurian rocks in Ireland. At the southern end of Coalpit Bay, a mile south of Donaghadee, at low tide, we find a series of grits, slates, and shales dipping southward at high angles. The rocks are intersected by dykes and faults, and are in places much crumpled and shattered. The shales especially, where not too much altered, yield fossils in abundance, which show that the beds belong to the Llandovery and Bala series. Messrs. Swanston and Lapworth have listed forty-five species of Graptolites, two Brachiopods, and three Crustacea from Coalpit Bay; many of the Graptolites are in an excellent state of preservation; and the fauna shows that the series is identical with the Birkhill division of the well-known Moffat series of the South of Scotland. The genera most abundantly represented at Coalpit Bay are *Rastrites*, *Monograptus*, *Diplograptus*, and *Climacograptus*; and the crustacean *Dawsonia campanulata* is common. The flora of the Donaghadee district offers nothing of special interest, the

highly-tilled state of the ground allowing but little chance for spontaneous vegetation; but *Poterium officinale*, very rare as an Irish plant, grows on the railway bank south of the town; *Ligusticum scoticum* flourishes on Mew Island; and the pretty *Scilla verna* is everywhere abundant on the short turf of the coast-line. The marine flora and fauna offer some good species, and Donaghadee forms a first-class centre for the naturalist whose weapons are the tow-net, dredge, and trawl.

The **COPELAND ISLANDS** offer a pleasant and interesting day's boating excursion from Donaghadee. The large island, or Copeland Island proper, is about a mile in length by half-a-mile in breadth, and is separated from the mainland by a 4-fathom channel a mile wide at its narrowest point. The surface of the island is low and fertile, and the whitewashed walls of several farmsteads, which shelter a population of 34 persons, shine among the green and yellow fields. The Lighthouse Island lies a mile further out to sea. It consists of 40 acres of grazing land, and crowning its summit are the lighthouse buildings, in use until a few years ago. Mew Island is a low rock of 26 acres, intersected by gullies, lying close on the eastern side of Lighthouse Island. At its eastern end towers the splendid lighthouse—completed in 1884—which guards the entrance of Belfast Lough. The light stands 121 feet above high water, and is one of the most powerful in the world, its full strength being 177,000 candle-power. It shows four short white flashes followed by 38 seconds of darkness, the whole cycle occupying one minute. In thick weather a fog siren gives each two minutes a four-second blast, followed after twelve seconds by another four-second blast on a higher note. Mew Island is a well-known haunt of the Terns or Sea-Swallows, and during the breeding season these pretty birds lay their eggs and bring out their young among the rocks and grass of the islet. The only relic of antiquity on the islands is a little cemetery, containing traces of a chapel, on the southern side of the Great Island, from which Chapel Bay adjoining takes its name. The islands are called after the English family of Copeland, who settled

in the Ards during the early invasions. The ancient name of the islands is not known. The Copeland Islands were formerly one of the possessions of the great Abbey of Bangor.

BANGOR TO DONAGHADEE.

The pleasantest way of approaching Donaghadee is by the shore road from Bangor (7 miles), and a good one-day excursion is obtained by taking rail to Bangor, driving or walking thence to Donaghadee, and back by rail to Belfast. The cyclist will probably prefer to ride the whole round. Leaving Bangor, we pass the villas and strand of Ballyholme Bay and the shady copses of Glengannah. The road cuts across the projecting ridge of Ballymacormick Point, and strikes the sea again at the little village of **GROOMSPORT** (2½ miles—population, 284). The village street is occupied by whitewashed cottages, a few lodging-houses, a Presbyterian church, and a couple of public-houses. Close by is the picturesque little harbour, filled with brown-sailed trawlers and open fishing boats. The lifeboat house stands near, and down by the water a row of fishermen's cottages and a coastguard station occupy the curving shores of a calm shingle fringed bay. At the eastern end of the village stand the parish church and the fine Elizabethan residence of R. Perceval Maxwell, D.L. Here there is boating in abundance, and good fishing and bathing The air is bracing, the water deliciously clear, and the yellow sands offer a pleasing contrast to the dark jagged reefs of rock with their wealth of brown sea-wrack. Groomsport is famous in local history as the spot where General Schomberg landed, with 10,000 men, on 13th August, 1689, to march through Belfast and besiege Carrickfergus. A mile and a-half beyond Groomsport we ascend the ridge that terminates in Orlock Point, and drop down the other side into the woods of Portavoe. **ORLOCK POINT** is worth a visit, and the pedestrian will do

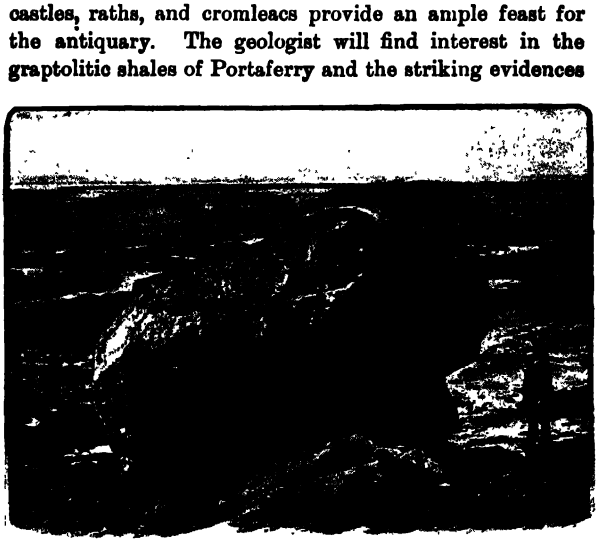
well to keep along the shore-line from Groomsport. In Balloo Bay, or Sandeel Bay, one mile east of Groomsport, a low cliff of sand overhangs the beach. Embedded in these sands Mr. R. M. Young has recently found remains of primitive man—splintered bones and teeth of Irish Elk, Wild Boar, Deer and Goat, fragments of pottery, charcoal, stone hammers, calcined pebbles, quantities of edible molluscs, and a bronze pin.* At Orlock Point the uptilted Ordovician rocks form rugged ridges and hollows. Here they plunge down into deep green water; there they form a foaming reef, which shows its teeth just above the sea. Picturesque bits there are in abundance to delight the heart of the sketcher, and Sea-Pinks, Sea-Campion, Vernal Squill, and a score of other maritime plants light up vividly the rocks and grassy sward. At Orlock Bridge, beyond Orlock Point, the road strikes the shore, and follows it closely thence to Donaghadee. On the right are the woods of Portavo House, the property of Captain Ker. Further on we see, near the road, a gallaun or standing-stone, a block of grit eight feet high. Thence to Donaghadee we get pretty views of the coast and of the Copeland Island right opposite, with the Scotch hills beyond.

3—THE ARDS—NEWTOWNARDS TO GREYABBEY, PORTAFERRY, BALLYWALTER, AND DONAGHADEE.

FROM either Donaghadee or Newtownards we start to make the tour of the Ards peninsula. This is a tract of low hillocky fertile land, about 20 miles in length by 3 to 5 in breadth, enclosed between Strangford Lough on the west and the Irish Sea on the east. It was anciently known as *Ard-Uladh*, the high land of Ulster. The early records contain accounts of several invasions and battles which took place in the district. On the arrival of the English, the land was parcelled out to their retainers and

* *Ulster Journal of Archæology*, n.s., vol. iv., pp. 44–47, 1897.

to the monasteries which they founded. Foremost among the families who obtained a foothold in the Ards were the Savages, who for a long period were instrumental in upholding the English supremacy in their dominions; and this family (their name now altered to Nugent) are still resident landowners in the district. The interest of the Ards is chiefly archæological: abbeys, churches, castles, raths, and cromleacs provide an ample feast for the antiquary. The geologist will find interest in the graptolitic shales of Portaferry and the striking evidences



THE BUTTERLUMP STONE.

of glacial action; and some very good plants and insects are recorded to tempt the naturalist. To see the Ards district thoroughly, one should work down the Strangford Lough shore and up the Irish Sea coast, or *vice versa*. The length of this tour is about 45 miles. Portaferry forms a good stopping-place at the southern limit of the tour; and Ballywalter can be similarly used by those who prefer shorter stages. Or the tourist may follow a zigzag line down the peninsula, visiting all points of

interest as he goes, and at Portaferry cross the narrow entrance of Strangford Lough by boat, and thence proceed by road (8½ miles) to Downpatrick, and back to Belfast or on to Newcastle by rail. The cyclist will find the roads first-rate, and if he is energetic he may do the whole round of the Ards in a day; but if his tastes are archæological, he will probably not get beyond Portaferry in one day, whether he crosses the strait *en route*



MOUNTSTEWART CROMLEAC.

for Downpatrick, or returns northward. Norton & Co.'s car service is in operation between Newtownards and Portaferry, *via* Greyabbey and Kircubbin, with a branch to Ballyhalbert. The cars run in connection with the morning and evening trains in both directions. Circular tickets, available for return by Strangford and Downpatrick, are issued during the tourist season.

If we start from Newtownards, our road lies along the edge of Strangford Lough, here all bare sand at low tide.

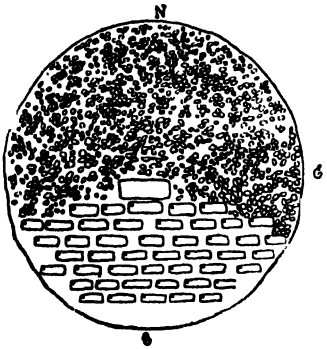
Right opposite, Scrabo Hill rises boldly, crowned with its lofty tower. The first object of interest we meet with is Butterlump Stone, a huge block of black basalt lying tilted on bright red beds of Triassic sandstone. This block is estimated to contain about 1,720 cubic feet, and to weigh about 130 tons. It is a relic of the Great Ice Age, carried here from some spot further north, where such rock occurs—possibly from Scrabo Hill. Five miles



MOUNTSTEWART HOUSE.

from Newtownards we pass **MOUNTSTEWART HOUSE**, the seat of the Marquess of Londonderry, a mansion of classic style standing in an extensive and well-wooded demesne. Here was born, in 1769, the great Lord Castlereagh, one of the best abused of British statesmen, on account of the leading part which he took in the political events of the end of the 18th and early part of the 19th centuries. The house is built of Scrabo sandstone, and floored with bog fir found on Lord Londonderry's estates.

The grounds are open to the public, and contain several objects of interest. A Greek temple, copied from the "Temple of the Winds" at Athens, stands near the road. No less than three raths—or their remains—are situated among the plantations; a ruined chapel lies near the eastern edge of the demesne; and half-a-mile south-east of the house is a small but perfect cromleac, the only portion now remaining of a very remarkable pre-historic cemetery discovered in 1786.



PLAN OF MOUNTSTEWART CARN.

At that date a carn of loose stones, which stood around and over the cromleac, was removed, the stones being required to fill drains that had been dug in the surrounding meadow. The carn was about 80 feet in diameter, and 5 feet high. On the removal of the field-stones of which it was made up, the southern half of the carn was found to contain 60 or 70 kists or sepulchral chambers. Each consisted of a floor of one or more slabs, of four slabs standing on edge forming the walls, and of a covering slab. The chambers were disposed in regular rows running east and west, and each measured about 3 feet long by 18 inches wide. In the north-east corner of each kist was a small sepulchral urn, and the floor of each chamber was strewn with fragments of burnt bones and charcoal, and sometimes a little gravel. Most of the urns were highly ornamented with moulded and impressed decoration. In some cases the urns had crumbled away. The cromleac which still remains occupied the centre of the carn, its chamber being about four times as large as the others; no urns or bones were found in it. One of the small kists may still be seen, standing beside the cromleac.*



URN FROM MOUNTSTEWART CARN.

* See *Ulster Journal of Archæology*, vol. ix. (1861-62), pp. 111-113, 3 plates.

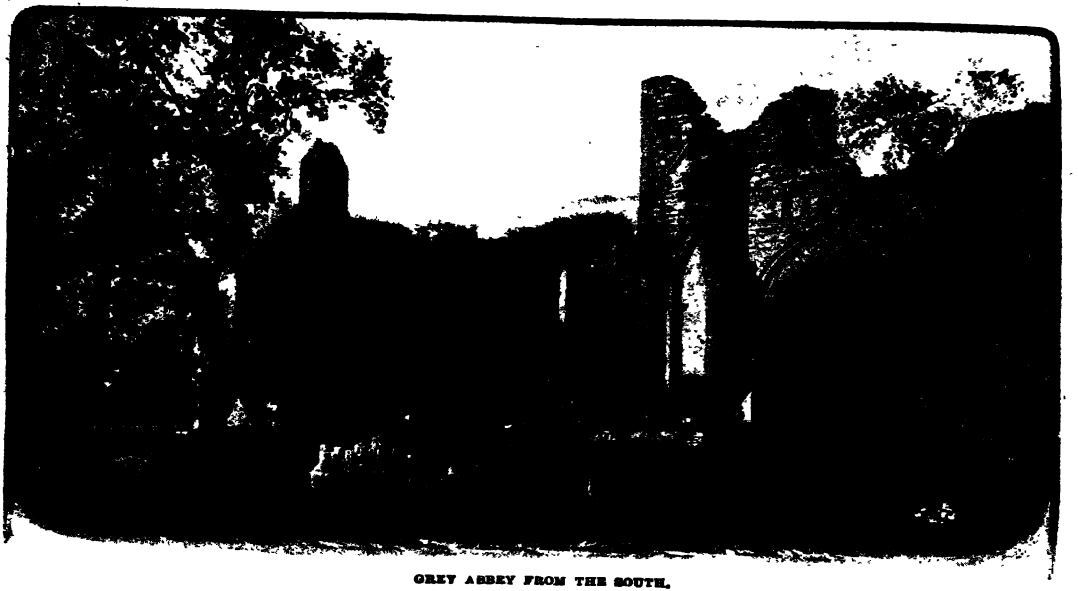
An interesting object at Mountstewart is the fine old vine, planted in 1769, which still annually bears a large crop of grapes.

A couple of miles beyond Mountstewart we reach

GREYABBEY,

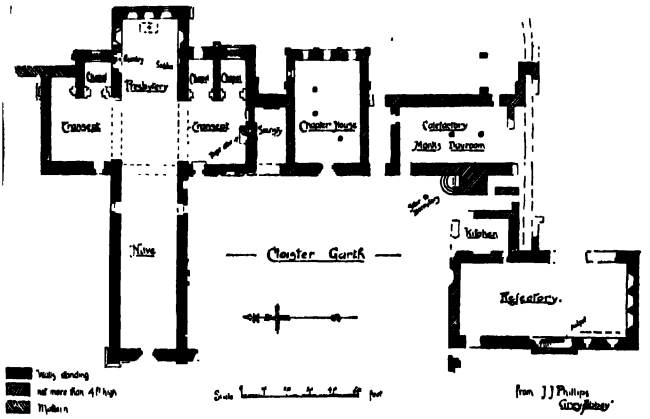
which consists of a long street running inland from the shore of the lough, and has a population of 633. The beautiful ruins of the abbey which gives its name to the place stand on the right-hand, or south side, at the head of the street, and admission may be obtained to them at all times.

This establishment was founded by Affreca, daughter of Godred, King of Man, and wife of John de Courcy, in the year 1193, and it was tenanted by Cistercian monks, whom the foundress brought over from the abbey of Holm Cultram, in Cumberland. On the site which she selected, "sheltered by hills, well wooded, watered by a clear stream and never-failing springs," arose the church and other buildings of the monastery, fashioned in the graceful Early English style; the quarries of Scrabo Hill furnishing a supply of grey freestone, suitable for dressing and carving. Affreca, "Ladye de Courcy," took up her residence in this peaceful spot, and when she died she was buried here. Her recumbent effigy, with the hands in the attitude of prayer, carved in grey freestone, was erected beside the high altar; and may still be seen in the chancel, though now much defaced. In early times the monastery was known as *Mainistir liath*, or Monaster lea, the Grey Monastery, *i.e.*, the Monastery of the Grey Friars; its conventual title was *De Jugo Dei*—the Yoke of God. The abbey flourished till towards the middle of the 16th century, when the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII. took place. The last record we have of the establishment in its entirety is dated 1541, when John Cassells was abbot. Two years later, the place which for three and a-half centuries had sheltered the austere white-cassocked Cistercian monks was derelict. Thirty years later, when the lands of the O'Neills of Clannaboye were given by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Thomas Smith, the enraged owner, Sir Brian M'Phelim O'Neill, swept across his territory with fire and sword, destroying every structure which might be made available as a garrison by the English; and there can be no doubt that Grey Abbey shared, at his hands, the fate of the abbeys of Bangor, Movilla, and Comber, and that the English colonisers found nothing but a smoking ruin amid the trees. Subsequently, the manor of Greyabbey passed into the hands of the Montgomery family, in whose possession it still remains. About 1626 the nave of the abbey church was enclosed for worship by the first Viscount Montgomery, who built the bell-cote at the west end and furnished it with a bell; and it was used as a parish church until 1778. The beautiful ruins have not suffered much since the destruction of the abbey by O'Neill, and these are now carefully conserved by the owner, Major-General Montgomery.



GREY ABBEY FROM THE SOUTH.
Welch's Irish Views.

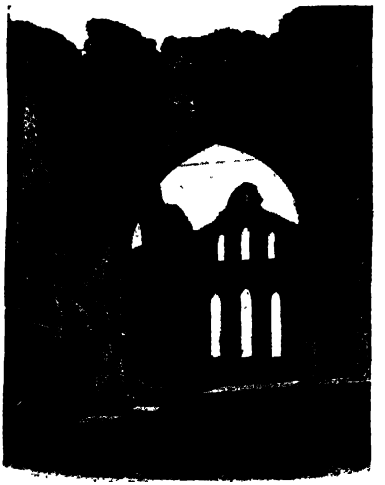
Of the abbey ruins as they exist at present, rising among aged trees on a beautiful green sward, the most perfect portions are the church and the refectory. The church is in the form of a Latin cross, measuring inside 122 feet by 84 feet. Four small chapels opened off the transept. The nave is peculiar in being devoid of aisles. The west doorway is a good example of Early English work. The east end of the church is square, and



PLAN OF GREY ABBEY

has a double tier of triplet windows of "early pointed" shape, with a small similar window above. The western end contains the fine doorway already alluded to, with a small window over it of much later date, and it is crowned with the bell-cote which Sir Hugh Montgomery erected about 1626. The chancel arch and south transept arch are gone, but the north transept arch and choir arch remain, the mouldings of the latter being quite perfect. The sacristy, chapter-house (originally the most hand-

somely decorated portion of the abbey), calefactory, and kitchen, are in a much ruined condition, the walls rising only a few feet above the ground. The refectory must have been a magnificent hall, stately in its proportions, and with a fair share of architectural display. It measures 71½ feet by 28 feet, and the southern wall contains a fine window of three lights. The ancient well which supplied the abbey is still to be seen at the south side of the buildings, covered by a vault. Several ancient grave-



GREY ABBEY—EAST WINDOW.

slabs lie near the abbey. A number of monumental tablets and the Montgomery vault occupy the nave, and adjoining it, on the north-east, is a cemetery which is still used. It contains a number of interesting old grave-stones, such as that of John M'Dowell, whose age is recorded as 116 years, and that of Rev. James Porter, of

Greyabbey, who was hanged, in view of his own manse, for participation in the agitation of 1797. One of the quaintest inscriptions is in rhyme :—

" Here lyes Jean Hay
who night and day
was honest good and
just her hope and
love was from above
in which place was
her trust her spirit
left her terrane
part with joy to
God where was her
hart on the 4 day
of Jany 1767."

Perhaps the handsomest monument is a grand Anglo-Norman grave-slab, seven feet in length, which was brought from the site of Black Abbey, two miles to the eastward.*

Leaving Greyabbey, the road again runs along the shore of Strangford Lough. A mile south of the village, we see on the shore an enormous erratic block, probably the largest in the county Like the Butterlump Stone, a few miles to the northward, it is composed of basaltic rock ; its base is not seen, as it is surrounded by the shingle of the beach ; but the underlying rock is Ordovician. This huge stone measures about 25 × 25 × 14 feet, and its horizontal girth is nearly 100 feet. Its weight must be well over 500 tons ! Four miles beyond Greyabbey we reach the little village of Kircubbin (pop. 606). Four miles south of Kircubbin, **ARDKEEN** (*ard caoin*, the pleasant height) is seen on the right-hand side of the road. This is a swelling hill 130 feet in height, surrounded on three sides by the waters of the lough. On the landward slope, a ditch and rampart twenty feet high sweep across in a semi-circle ; and behind this earthwork, the summit of the hill is crowned with a circular mound 90 feet in diameter and 20 feet in height. On the flat summit of the mound

* See J. J. Phillips : *St. Mary's of Grey Abbey*. 4to, Belfast (1874).

may be seen the foundations of Ardkeen Castle, once a formidable stronghold. It was erected between 1177 and 1180 by William, Baron le Savage, one of the followers of De Courcy, on the spot, fortified by nature and strengthened by art, which the Irish had long before entrenched. The position of the castle was a commanding one. "From its summit would be visible a splendid panorama of wood and sea and mountain. Eastward the Ards—the 'little hills' of Uladh—undulated away to the Channel; north, west, and south stretched the blue waters of the vast Fiord, studded with its many islands, on some of which gleamed the chapels of the early Irish saints, and bearing on its shores here and there the lately-erected castles of the Norman conquerors; while in the distance rose the lofty rock of Scrabo, and further off the blue peaks of Ulster, from Slieve Donard to Divis and Cave Hill." * Established here, the Savages became dominant in the Ards, and for many centuries they ruled their sea-girt domain, and fought hard in order to retain it. Retain it they did, and they are almost the only Anglo-Norman family who still own (though not now under their ancient patronymic) any portion of the land which they won by the sword in the 12th century. Andrew Savage, of Portaferry, on succeeding to the family estates in 1797, assumed the name of Nugent, which led the famous Lord Norbury to remark, "Well, I'd rather be an *old Savage* than a *new gent*!"

The old castle of Ardkeen was pulled down about 200 years ago by John Savage, and he used the material in building a mansion at the landward side of the hill, of which some traces now remain beside a modern farmstead, which has, in turn, been built out of the materials of the old house. At the southern base of the hill stand the ruins of a church—a rectangular building of severe simplicity and of no very ancient date. It replaced the older Church of St. Mary—*Ecclesia Sanctæ Mariæ de*

* Savage-Armstrong; *The Savages of the Ards*, p 122.



CREST OF SAVAGE OF ARDKEEN.

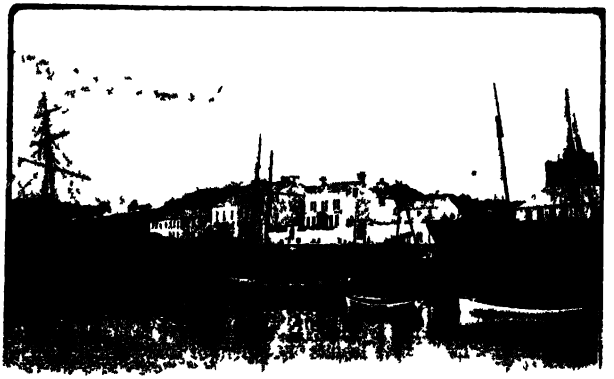
Ardkene—which stood on the same site, probably when the fort on the hill above was still in the hands of the Irish. Thus Castle Hill bears on its few acres traces of the history of many centuries—the earthen fortress built by some forgotten Irish chieftain, the castle of the Anglo-Norman, the 17th century mansion of his descendant, the modest homestead of the present day; the Protestant church, itself a crumbling ruin, has replaced the early Catholic church of *Sancta Maria*. Now, the silence of the ruins is broken only by the lowing of the cattle and the scream of the sea-birds.

South of Ardkeen, rising ground intervenes between the road and the shore, shutting off our view of the lough. We pass Lough Cowey and Ballyherly Lough, small lakes lying close to the road, and soon reach

PORTAFERRY.

This seaport town is beautifully situated on the edge of the narrow channel that connects Strangford Lough with the Irish Sea. A tremendous tide sweeps up and down the sound, which has a width of half-a-mile to a mile, and a depth of 10 to 30 fathoms. With every tide, four hundred million tons of green water rush through this deep and rocky strait. Right in the fairway near the entrance stands the Angus Rock (commonly called the Rocking Goose, a corruption of Rock Angus), marked by a tall white beacon. Out on the bar a fearful sea rages when a storm sets against the tide. It is little wonder that the Norsemen named the lough Strang Fiord—the violent inlet. The town consists of a long street facing the sea, and a steep street that leads inland to "the Square," where it branches into two streets. The population numbers 1,624 persons. In the Square stands the market-house which figured in the

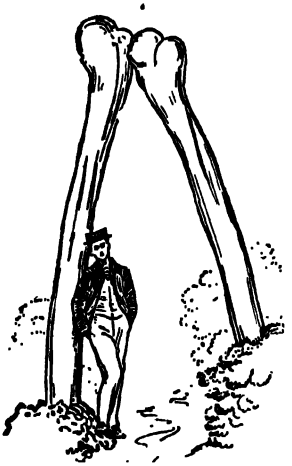
disturbances of 1798 (see p. 9), and also a good hotel. Right opposite the quay lies the village of Strangford, on the mainland side of the channel, and the woods of Castleward. Ferry-boats cross continually to the quay at Strangford, whence 8½ miles by road brings us to Downpatrick. The road by which we have come from Newtownards is 19 miles; the road by which we shall return to Donaghadee, including a visit to Ballyquintin Point, the extremity of the Ards peninsula, is 29 miles. By omitting Ballyquintin Point from the programme this



PORTAFERRY QUAY.

distance may be reduced to 23 miles. The antiquities of Portaferry consist of the remains of a castle and of a church, both within the town limits. The castle is the remnant of a formidable stronghold which the family of Savage held for many centuries. It consists of a small rectangular keep, of which one angle has fallen out. From its position it is easily understood what an important strategic site it occupied, as guarding, along with the castle of Strangford opposite, the narrow entrance of the lough.

The ruins of the old church of Templecranney stand in the graveyard on the left side of Church Street. One high ivy-clad fragment of a gable still stands, surmounted by a small bell-cote. Adjoining the town on the north and east is the fine demesne of Major-General Nugent, the representative of the Savage family. A quaint and interesting object in the grounds is an arch formed of the jaw-bones of a huge whale. No history attaches to the relics, which have been in the demesne for at least a century and a-half; they were probably taken from a whale that stranded somewhere in the neighbourhood. Beyond the demesne, a mile and a-half north-east of Portaferry, is the highest ground in the Ards peninsula—Ballywhite Hill (339 feet) and Ballyherly Hill (262 feet). The former overlooks the lough, and from its summit a very fine view is obtained Strangford Lough in all its length lies below us, its numerous islands spread like a map. Right opposite is the winding estuary of the Quoile River, and the busy little town of Killyleagh, with the blue ridge of Slieve Croob far behind. Northward, beyond the long stretch of water, rise Helen's Tower, Scrabo Hill, and the high range of hills overlooking Belfast. More to the right, the whole district of Ards lies spread, checkered with fertile fields and dotted with white cottages. Eastward stretches the Irish Sea and the distant hills of Scotland and Man. Southward our eye follows the narrow entrance of Strangford Lough, from Ballyquintin Point, where a high white beacon marks the dangerous Angus



WHALE'S JAW IN PORTAFERRY DEMESNE.

Rock in mid-channel, past Portaferry and Strangford to the broader, calmer waters below us. Behind the village of Strangford and the woods of Castleward rise the low rugged hills of Castlemahon and Slievenagriddle. A little further to the right the huge forms of the Mourne Mountains tower up in glorious array.

From Portaferry to **BALLYQUINTIN POINT**, the extremity of the long peninsula of Ards, is four miles. This place is of interest, chiefly to the geologist. The low up-tilted Silurian rocks exhibit very finely the rounding, grooving, and striation that we attribute to the action of ice during the Glacial Period. The direction of the ice-flow has been S. 40° E. The Silurians are penetrated by a large number of parallel dykes of volcanic rocks, mostly felstones and minettes, running N.E. and S.W. At the point, too, may be seen great terraces of gravel, stretching several hundred yards backwards from the present beach, and rising to a height of some 15 feet above the highest present storm-level. The rocks in the neighbourhood are themselves of much interest as being the highest Silurian beds in the north-east of Ireland. Near Tieveshilly Hill adjoining are seen graptolitic black shales and flags of the Tarannon series; and higher beds of the same series occur six miles north of Tieveshilly.

At Ballyquintin Point we leave at length the shore of Strangford Lough, and turn northward, following the outer shore of the Ards, which fronts the Irish Sea. A mile and a-half north of Ballyquintin, close to the beach, stand the remains of the ancient church of Templecowey (*teampull cumhaighe*, the church of the greyhound of the plain, or, metaphorically, hero of the plain). St. Cumhaighe, or Cówey, who bore this poetical sobriquet, was an early ecclesiastic, of whose life nothing is known; his name, usually modernised into *Quintin*, is perpetuated in several place-names in the Ards. Of the church, only obscure foundations remain; adjoining it are three holy wells. Half-a-mile further northward we reach Tara Fort,

a fine circular earthwork crowning an isolated hill, and forming a conspicuous object. Half-a-mile north of Tara Fort, close to the road which skirts the shore, is situated a small stone circle; eleven stones still stand, forming a ring about 60 feet in diameter. A few hundred yards further north, a standing-stone will be noticed on the right-hand side of the road. This is the only surviving relic of a circle of large stones which formed part of the periphery of a sepulchral mound opened over half a century ago. The centre of the mound contained a chamber formed of eight large upright stones, with a slab forming the floor, on which rested a heap of partly calcined human bones.* QUINTIN CASTLE, which



QUINTIN CASTLE.

stands on the shore two and a-half miles east of Portaferry, next attracts attention. It was built by the Anglo-Normans, but has been renovated by a late owner so as to leave little external trace of its antiquity; the heavily bastioned keep, the flanking towers, and battlemented walls overhanging the sea, present an imposing appear-

* See Davis: *Literary and Historical Essays*, Meehan's edition, p. 86-7.

ance. Beyond Quintin Castle we pass the hamlet and pretty bay of Knockinelder *(cnock-an-iolair*, the hill of the eagle), and after three miles reach the little village of CLOGHY *(the stony place)*. The houses straggle round the curve of a beautiful sandy bay. On the hill to the south are the remains of the ancient church of Ardmacaisse, now Slanes. A fine souterrain, about 50 yards in length, is described by Harris* as existing in a field hard by the church. The passage has five steps, each descending two feet, and it terminates in an oval chamber measuring 12 feet long, 8 feet wide, and 5 feet high. The roof of the oval chamber in which the passage terminated has now fallen in, and the visitor may enter by this way, the entrance proper being closed up. The hill on which these remains stand commands a fine view eastward. Right in front we see the dangerous South Rock, now guarded by a lightship moored two miles to seaward. This reef was formerly much dreaded by seamen. "Beware of the South Rock," writes Harris (1744), "on which many brave Ships have perished; for it is overflowed every Tide, and no Crew can save their Lives (as it stands a full Mile from the Shore) if the Wind blows high." On the plain, half-a-mile inland from Cloghy, stand the remains of the castle and church of Castleboy, the only relic of the Ards Preceptory of the Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, who were established here in the twelfth century by Hugh de Lacy. Around Cloghy Bay the geologist will note the low hills cut into steep bluffs by the sea when the land was less elevated than it is now. This old sea-margin is a quarter of a mile inland, and from the base of the bluffs to the present beach a fertile plain extends, covered with growing crops, its landward edge 30 to 40 feet above high-water mark. On one of these bluffs a fine tumulus rises, the monument of some forgotten chieftain, and the stump of a windmill occupies another. The interesting ruin of KIRKISTONE CASTLE

* Harris's *County Down*, p. 195.

stands on the low ground under the line of bluffs, showing that the contour of the coast was the same when the castle was built as it is at present. This castle was erected by Roland Savage in the early years of the reign of James I. It is of peculiar interest as being almost the only one in the district in which the *bawn* or fortified yard surrounding the keep has been preserved. The keep, which is still perfect, is about 30 feet square, and rises in the centre of a square enclosure measuring 60 to 70 yards across. The southern face of the outer wall is standing, flanked by a circular tower at each corner, and fragments of the eastern wall also remain. The corner



KIRKISTONE CASTLE, FORMERLY THE SEAT OF THE SAVAGES OF KIRKISTONE.

bastions are now about 17 feet in height; the curtain wall which connects them averages 11 feet high, and is 3 feet in thickness. Though the buildings are not on an imposing scale, they form a highly picturesque group. Beyond Kirkistone Castle the road strikes inland. A sharp turn to the right, three miles further on, brings us again to the shore at **BALLYHALBERT** (pop. 394). A windmill, one of the few still in use in the district, forms a conspicuous landmark. At the southern end of the village are a standing-stone, a tumulus, and the ruins of the old parochial church. A mile to the south-east is Burial Island, the most easterly point of Ireland, and for several miles southward the rocks are seamed with innumerable dykes of greenstone, minette, and felstone. From Ballyhalbert

to Donaghadee, 12 miles, the road closely follows the coast-line, which is pleasantly varied by rocky reefs and bays of yellow sand. At Rodden's Port, one and a-half mile north of Ballyhalbert, we may see a bed of peat, containing the stumps and trunks of trees, on the shore between tide-marks. It is covered by a thin bed of marine clay, and rests on fine red and grey laminated clays. Four miles from Ballyhalbert we pass through the neat little town of **BALLYWALTER** (pop. 554), locally celebrated as possessing no policeman, no doctor, and only two licensed houses in the whole parish. One of the two houses last mentioned is a plain but comfortable inn. Adjoining the town on the south is Ballywalter Park, the beautiful seat of Lord Dunleath. Half-a-mile north-west stand the ruins of Templefinn, the White Church. Of Black Abbey, "the Priory of St. Andrew of the Ardes," which was founded by De Courcy about 1180 A.D., and stood a mile and a-half south-west of Ballywalter, no trace now remains. Five miles beyond Ballywalter we pass the village of MILLISLE (pop. 255). Further on we reach St. Patrick's well, already alluded to, and two and a-half miles from Millisle we again arrive at Donaghadee.

4.—COMBER TO SAINTFIELD, BALLYNAHINCH, AND CROSSGAR.

WE rejoin the railway at Comber. The main line bends southward now, and, leaving the New Red Sandstone trough through which we have travelled from Belfast, it ascends through a rock-cutting into the hummocky Ordovician country. Right and left of the line we pass extensive quarries, where the thick-bedded grey grits yield a stone highly serviceable for building purposes and for square-setts. **BALLYGOWAN** (*baile gobhan*, the town of the smith), 12 miles from Belfast—population 190—is a little hamlet by the rail-side at which we need

not delay. A large home for destitute children stands close to the station. **SAINTFIELD** (15½ miles—population 657), our next stopping-place, is a little village set among the rolling fertile hills so characteristic of County Down. The name is a literal translation of its Irish designation—Tonaghneeve (*tamhnach naomh*), the Field of the Saints. Near here was fought, on June 10, 1798, a sharp action between the Irish insurgents and the English troops, of which mention has already been made on page 9. Round about Saintfield are a number of pretty lakelets, interesting to the naturalist, and to the antiquary as well. In a crannog situated in Lough Henney (*loch eanach*, the lake of the marsh), 3½ miles west of Saintfield, the abode of Toole MacPhelim MacIvor early in the 17th century, a peculiar iron helmet, now in the Belfast Museum, was found, and a bronze caldron. Crannogs occur in several other lakes in the neighbourhood. Beyond Saintfield we pass through rocky ground, gay with Heather, Gorse, and Broom, and boggy hollows filled with Reed-mace. At Ballynahinch Junction (18 miles) a short branch line turns off to the right to Ballynahinch (21½ miles).

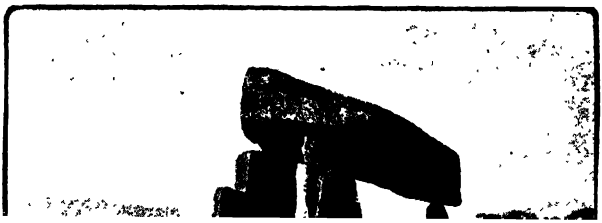
BALLYNAHINCH.

This is a clean and breezy little town, with a population of 1,542 persons, situated exactly in the centre of County Down. Its name signifies "the town of the island" (Irish, *baile-na-hinnsi*). The station where we alight is the highest on the railway, being about 200 feet above the terminus at Belfast. Adjoining the station is an extensive market-place, where an important market for farm produce of all kinds is held every Thursday, Ballynahinch being the centre of a great agricultural district. The principal thoroughfare, High Street, is occupied by shops, which show what an important local centre Ballynahinch is. Here also is situated a good hotel (Walker's). The only industries in the town are muslin-sewing and hemstitching, which give employment to some hundreds of persons.

Hills rise on almost every hand. On the east is the tree-crowned Windmill Hill, famous for the part it played in the action fought here in 1798 (see p. 9). The extensive demesne of Montalto, the residence of Captain R. W. B. Ker, adjoins the town on the southern side. On the northern side of Montalto House rises the hill of Edenavaddy. This is the spot where the insurgents made such a determined stand against the troops of General Nugent on that eventful 12th of June a hundred and two years ago. Two and a-half miles south of Ballynahinch, amid pretty rural scenery, is situated the celebrated Spa which has so long made Ballynahinch a favourite place of resort. There are two medicinal springs—the one chalybeate, the other sulphurous. The latter is the more important, and derives its useful properties from the combination of sulphuretted hydrogen and iron in its waters. A good hotel adjoins, which is open during the summer season, and the wells are enclosed in suitable buildings in well-laid-out grounds. An old-fashioned labyrinthine garden gives a touch of quaintness to the spot. The Spa is best approached from Ballynahinch through Montalto demesne, which is shorter than the road, and provides, moreover, a very picturesque walk. The Spa lies high, in the midst of fresh and open country, and its pure and remarkably bracing air has a healthful and stimulating effect, quite apart from its beneficent but unpleasant sulphurous waters.

Four miles S.W. of the Spa, and five miles S.S.W. of Ballynahinch, Slieve Croob (*sliabh crúb*, the mountain of the hoof) rises to a height of 1755 feet, the crowning elevation of the picturesque group of ancient granitic hills of Central Down. The mountain is wild and bare, and one's chief reward in climbing it, apart from a bracing and health-giving walk, is the grand view which is obtained from its summit. The whole of County Down lies spread around us like a map. Southward, the Mourne Mountains rise in magnificent array, flanked on the right by the hills of Louth and Armagh. Northward, the Belfast hills

rise in the middle distance, with the wide expanse of Lough Neagh to the left, and the distant mountains of Tyrone, Derry, and Donegal beyond. The summit of the hill is crowned with the ruins of a gigantic carn; the stones which compose it have been heaped into a number of lesser carns. The River Lagan has its source on the western slope of the hill. Slieve Croob is the north-east extremity of the old granites of Central Down. This rock forms the southern slopes of the hill; the northern slopes are formed of Ordovician rocks, much altered by the intrusion of the granite.



LEGANANNY CROMLEAC.

One of the most remarkable cromleacs in Ireland stands on the slope west of the little Boley Lough, 2½ miles south-west of the summit of Slieve Croob, and 6 miles north-west of Castlewellan, in the townland of Legananny. The cap-stone is a symmetrical coffin-shaped slab of granite, 11 feet long, 5 feet wide at the broadest part, and 1½ feet thick, and it rests on the points of three slender pillar-like supporters. Two remarkably symmetrical ones, 6½ feet high, support the heavier end of the slab, and a tapered stone 5 feet high the lower end.

Rejoining the railway at Ballynahinch Junction, the line bends eastward, and drops rapidly down into the valley of the Quoile. On the right we obtain pretty peeps of the Mourne Mountains, standing up boldly over the intervening lowlands, with Slieve Donard towering conspicuously above the others. In the foreground are the woods of Rademon demesne; beyond we catch glimpses of Kilmore Church and the tall obelisk erected in memory of William Sharman-Crawford. He was a Protestant landed proprietor, who may be said to have devoted his life to fighting for tenant-right and Catholic emancipation. For close on half-a-century he pressed upon Parliament the claims of the tenants with indomitable perseverance. Most of the reforms which he advocated were carried out by subsequent enactments: their champion died in 1861, at the mature age of 80 years, without seeing the full triumph of the principles for which he so strenuously contended. Our next stop is **CROSSGAR** (*cros gearr*, the short cross)—21½ miles—a pleasant village, with a population of 583, on the banks of a tributary of the Quoile. Two churches built of the dark green grit of the neighbourhood relieve the monotony of the clean whitewashed street. Crossgar is the nearest railway station to Killyleagh (4½ miles), a busy little town on the shores of Strangford Lough, which will be referred to later on (p. 120). Beyond Crossgar we see more clearly the Sharman-Crawford obelisk. The line runs through a rocky, heathy country for a few miles, and then crosses the Quoile River, here a slow-flowing stream, fringed with extensive marshes. We pass the junction of the loop line which cuts off a corner on the way to Newcastle. As the line curves sharply eastward into Downpatrick, we see on the left the huge fort from which the town and county take their name, and, rising over the trees on the hill above it, the tall square tower of the cathedral; a minute later the train draws up alongside the platform at Downpatrick (27 miles).

5.—KILLINCHY, KILLYLEAGH, AND STRANGFORD LOUGH.

DURING our railway journey from Comber to Downpatrick, an interesting tract of country has been passed on our left hand, bordering the island-studded Lough of Strangford, and we must now pay it a brief visit. The route from Comber to Downpatrick (25 miles as we describe it) can be broken by using the railway stations of Ballygowan, Saintfield, or Crossgar, which lie at distances of five to eight miles from the edge of the water. This trip allows us to make further acquaintance with the peculiar and pretty scenery of Strangford Lough, the ancient Lough Cuan (*loch cuan*, the harbour lake). The hillocky drift-covered country, so characteristic of Co. Down, here dips gently down below the water, producing first a series of peninsulas, isthmuses, and channels, and further out an archipelago of round-backed fertile islets. By the ancients, lakes or sea-filled depressions of the land were set down to sudden inundations—to the bursting in of the sea, or the bursting forth of mighty springs. Thus the formation of Lough Neagh, owing to the inattention of the custodian of a magic spring, is fully described in the romance of "Liban the Mermaid," whereby all the people of Ecca, who had settled in the Plain of the Grey Copse, were drowned, with the exception of Liban, who, transformed into a mermaid, was finally brought ashore at Larne by some of the monks of the Abbey of Bangor, whom the Abbot, the great St. Comgall, had sent on a mission to Rome in the 6th century; and the lake which was formed by the bursting of the spring has ever since been called Loch Necca (Lough Neagh).* In a similar way, though unaccompanied by so romantic a story, we read concerning the formation of Strangford Lough:—"*Anno Mundi* 2546. An inundation of the sea

* See Joyce's *Old Celtic Romances*.

over the land at Brena in this year, which was the seventh lake-eruption that occurred in the time of Partholan, and this is named Loch Cuan" *(Annals of the Four Masters).* To the Norsemen is due the modern name of the lough. They named it *Strang Fiord*—the violent inlet—probably on account of the rushing tides of its narrow mouth, the *Fretum Brennese* of the old writers.

Starting from Comber, our road lies south-eastward along the estuary of the Comber River to **CASTLE ESPIE** (*easpoc*, a bishop), well known to geologists as displaying one of the three small outcrops of Carboniferous rocks to be seen in County Down. The Castle Espie rock is a bright red-brown crystalline limestone, of Lower Carboniferous age, occupying a strip of the coast a mile long by a quarter of a mile wide. Though now of such limited extent, it is quite possible that the limestone may have originally filled a large part of the basin at present occupied by Strangford Lough, and that it has been removed by denudation and solution. Below it are shales and sandstones, representing the Lower Carboniferous shales. These rest on the up-tilted edges of the Ordovician rocks (see geological sketch on p. 83). This limestone was formerly extensively worked, and specimens of *Productus* and *Actinoceras* of gigantic size were to be obtained, but the large quarry now stands idle and full of water. The limestone is in places capped with a thin covering of Triassic sandstone, and above it reposes a bed of boulder clay 40 to 50 feet thick. The surface of the rock is beautifully ice-polished, and it appears to have been extensively denuded during the Glacial Epoch, as pebbles and great boulders of it abound on the numerous islands of Strangford Lough to the southward. The tall chimney and large Hoffmann kilns near by mark the site of an extensive brick and pottery works, now disused. A cromleac, with the cap-stone fallen down among the supports, is situated on the edge of a mill-dam a mile west of Castle Espie, and by a roadside a mile further westward, five large

stones, the remains of a small stone circle, stand in a field. Two miles south of Castle Espie we pass the church of Tullynakill *(the hill of the church)*. In the graveyard stand the remains of the former church, erected in 1639, with a round-headed doorway and twin window of similar shape, both carved in Castle Espie limestone. A mile further on we pass through the little tumble-down fishing-village of Ardmillan (*ard Maolain*, Maolan's



SKETRICK CASTLE IN 1895.

or Millan's height)—pop. 98—and keeping to the left, emerge on the shore near **SKETRICK CASTLE** (*sgath dery*, red shadow), which stands on the landward edge of Sketrick Island, guarding the causeway by which it is approached at low tide. This was one of the strongest of the twenty-seven fortresses that the Anglo-Normans built on Strangford Lough after John de Courcy's invasion. Subsequent to that period, it passed through the vicissitudes common to all points of

vantage during the troubled years that ensued. Thus we learn from the *Annals of the Four Masters* that in the year 1470 "a great army was led by O'Neill into Clannaboy, to assist MacQuillin of Duibhthrian [*the Black District*, now Dufferin] . . . O'Neill on this occasion made a prisoner of Art, the son of Donnell Cael O'Neill, and took the castle of Sgathderg [Sketrick], which he delivered up into the keeping of MacQuillin." Till lately the castle, a massive rectangular keep, 51 by 27 feet, and 57 feet high, stood tolerably complete, but in 1896 the south-western angle fell with a great crash one calm spring day, shaking the earth and raising a tall column of white dust; the portion which remains is much fissured, and will probably not long survive. Half-a-mile north of Sketrick lies **MAHEE ISLAND**, one of the numerous islets that fill the bay of Ardmillan. It is 1½ mile long by ¼ mile wide, its surface given up to tillage and grazing. At its western end, crowning the gentle slope, are the obscure remains of the ancient ecclesiastical colony of Nendrum, or Nedrum (*n'oendruim*, one hill), and "with Nedrum," says Bishop Reeves, "is to be associated the name of St. Mochoe, one of St. Patrick's early converts; and its honour is to have been set apart for the worship of the True God in the very dawn of Christianity in Ireland." Mochoe appears from St. Patrick's biographies to have been a favourite disciple of that missionary. These early saints were practical men. "It was this Mochee," says the ancient Calendar of the O'Clerys, "who went, in company with seven-score men, to hew planks for the purpose of erecting a church. Mochee himself was engaged in doing the work, and cutting the wood, in common with the others." From this it would appear that the original church was built of timber. St. Mochoe died about 490 A.D., and the island which witnessed his labours has ever since borne his name, *Mahee Island* being a corrupted anglicised form of *Inis-Mochaoi*. With Nendrum also is associated the name of St. Caylan, the

first Bishop of Down. In the twelfth century, De Courcy endowed the Priory of Nendrum handsomely; but, despite this, it appears to have soon sunk into insignificance, and later into utter oblivion, so that even its site was for centuries unknown, till re-discovered by the researches of Dr. Reeves in 1844.* Apart from the deep interest that must attach to one of the earliest Christian sites in the country, there is but little now left of Nendrum to arouse antiquarian enthusiasm. The foundations of a church, measuring about 58 feet by 22 feet, may be traced, and a little to the north of them stands the ivy-mantled base of a round tower. On one side it is broken away down to ground-level, and its highest stone rises only about 9 feet above the grass. Adjoining, foundations of several walls were discovered. The whole is enclosed by several faint concentric ramparts of earth, and at the northern point of the island, overlooking a causeway which crosses to Reagh Island, stand the ruins of a castle, probably one of De Courcy's numerous strongholds.

From Sketrick Castle our road leads us southward along the edge of the water, and then inland towards the village of Killinchy *(cill inse*, the church of the island), which, marked by its windmill, stands high over the island-studded lough. Two miles south-east of Killinchy, the peninsula of **RINGHADDY** *(rinn-fhada*, the long point) projects far into the lough. At a spot where it narrows to the width of a stone-throw, a picturesque castle-ruin stands beside a grove of trees among modern farm-buildings. Like almost all the Strangford Lough castles, it appears to be of Anglo-Norman origin, but it has apparently been inhabited up to a much later date than many of the others. On the hill above the castle stand the walls of a solidly built church of severely plain design. The east window is of comparatively large size; the west gable is hung with ancient ivy. The ruin commands a delightful view of the

* Reeves: *The Church of Nendrum or Inis-Mochaoi*, in Down and Connor and Dromore Church Architecture Society's *Papers* for 1844; Belfast, 1845.

lough, which, filled with islands, surrounds it on every side. The road which leads us south-west from Ringhaddy passes close to a fine tumulus, and on the hill above are the ruins of another ancient church, and a third stands on the west side of the main road to Killyleagh (which we now join), with a rath looking down on it from the hill above. Five miles from Ringhaddy stands **KILLYLEAGH** (pop. 1,513), a busy little town situated on the shore of the lough. Killyleagh Castle, an imposing mansion close to the town, was originally built by De Courcy, but has been so altered and added to that little of the original structure remains. After changing hands several times, being held in turn by MacArtans, Mandevilles, and Whites, it came into the possession of the Hamilton family, along with the forfeited estates of Clannaboy, at the close of the 16th century, and to them it has ever since belonged. The portion which now most bears the mark of antiquity is the square flanking-tower pierced by a round-headed gateway which leads to a fine avenue of Limes by the side of the road to Saintfield. Beyond these Lime-trees, a lane turning down the hill to the right leads to the old church and graveyard of Killowen (*cill Eoin*, [St.] John's church). Of the church, the east gable alone remains, containing a pretty twin window of chaste design, smothered in ivy.



SIR HANS SLOANE, M.D.
(From portrait in the *Literary Magazine*, Nov., 1790.)

Killyleagh possesses a good harbour, extensively used for the coasting trade and for the importing of coal. Muslin-sewing agencies give employment to a considerable number of people. This little town was the birthplace, in

1666, of Sir Hans Sloane, the eminent physician and naturalist, and founder of the British Museum.

He took his M.D. in the University of Orange in 1683, and was elected F.R.S. two years later. Going to the West Indies as Physician to the Duke of Albemarle, Governor of Jamaica, he made large botanical collections. He commenced a London practice in 1689, and speedily became one of the foremost physicians in the country. He was secretary of the Royal Society from 1693 to 1712, and revived the publication of the *Philosophical Transactions*. In 1698 he published a catalogue of Jamaica plants, and in 1707 brought out the first volume of his famous "Voyage," the second appearing in 1725. In 1716 he was made a baronet, and in 1727 was elected President of the Royal Society, which exalted scientific post he held until 1741. His death occurred in 1753. His elder daughter married the second Lord Cadogan, and several names of streets on the Cadogan estate in London perpetuate his memory—Sloane street, Sloane square, Hans street, Hans road. His entire collections, the amassing of which had cost him £50,000, he bequeathed to the nation, on condition of a payment of £20,000 to his family. This offer was accepted by Act of Parliament in 1753, and the specimens thus acquired formed the nucleus round which the vast collections of the British Museum have since aggregated. The house where he was born was rebuilt some time ago, but the inscribed keystone of the doorway was preserved and built into the wall of the present house—a block of Castle Espie limestone, with the inscription, "1637. G. S. M. W."

The Rev Dr. Hincks, the famous Assyrian and Egyptian scholar, a native of Cork, spent the greater part of his life (1825-1866) as rector here.

A mile north-west of Killyleagh the bright little village of **SHRIGLEY** (pop. 853) lies among the hills. The large flax-spinning mills of Messrs. John Martin & Co. stand close by, and give employment to the inhabitants. A handsome memorial clock-tower to Samuel Martin stands in the village street, and the busy hum of machinery fills the air. A mile beyond Shrigley lies Clay Lake (*loch cliath*, the lake of the hurdles), consisting of two expanses of water separated by a low neck of land. In the centre of the nearer portion, or Clay Lake South, are the remains of a crannog or ancient lake-dwelling, now an islet covered with bushes. On examination, the piles that surrounded the old site may still be seen. Overlooking Clay Lake North is a cashel,

or stone-built fort. The wall is about 6 feet thick and 6 to 8 feet high, but has been much mutilated. The circular enclosure measures 80 feet in diameter.

Out in the lough, 1½ mile north-east of Killyleagh, rises Dunnyneill Island (*dun-ui-Neill*, O'Neill's fort). It differs much in appearance from the low whale-backed islets which fill the lough, being, though quite small, high, with steep sides. Art has completed what nature began; the steep scarp has been artificially completed, forming a high circular rath. Here, according to tradition, the kings of Ulster kept the hostages obtained by their valour and might—a safe prison, surely, if somewhat bleak and inhospitable. Certain it is that the island was inhabited in early times, as shown by the layer of blackish earth, charged with fragments of bones and shells, exposed on the face of the steep bank, some 40 feet above high-water mark, where the sea has eaten into the side of the mound. The only inhabitants nowadays appear to be Red-breasted Merganser, handsome birds of the Duck family.

From Killyleagh, 4½ miles of road due eastward brings us to Crossgar, where we may rejoin the railway; or we may turn south-westwards to Downpatrick (6 miles) along the shores of the Quoile estuary, passing on the way a conspicuous rath on a hill-top on the left-hand side, inside which Castle William formerly stood, and on the right Major Perceval-Maxwell's fine demesne of Finnebrogue.

6.—DOWNPATRICK, INCH ABBEY, &c.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION.—Downpatrick is the county town of Down, and has been a place of importance from very early times. The steep hillocks rising out of the extensive marshes of the Quoile offered retreats of great natural strength, and highly suitable for purposes of defence. On one of these hillocks, almost surrounded by impracticable swamps and mud-flats, some early leader

erected the huge earthen fort which still stands a quarter of a mile north-west of the centre of the town. The place is referred to as *Aircealtair* (*aras Cealtair*, the habitation of Celtchar), under a date as early as *Anno Mundi* 4169 (1030 B.C.), in the *Annals of the Four Masters*, as the scene of a battle that took place some years previously The more usual early name of the place was *Rath Cealtair*, or *Dun Cealtair*, the fort of Celtchar. Celtchar, or Celtchar-of-the-Battles, as he was called, was one of the heroes of the *Craoibh Ruadh*, or Red Branch of Ulster, and a companion of the famous Connor MacNessa, King of Ulster. This name appears to have remained in vogue until the English invasion, as in a charter of John de Courcy mention is made of *Ecclesia sanctæ Trinitatis in Rathkelter*. But long before this period—before the coming of St. Patrick it would appear—the name *Dun-leth-glas* was also applied to the place. The origin of this name is obscure. It was subsequently altered to *Dun-da leth-glas*, and is frequently referred to in this form in early ecclesiastical and other documents. The name was commonly contracted into "Dun," this being, *par excellence*, *the* fort in the whole district, and this contraction is still constantly employed in the form of "Down" for the modern town, and is also seen in the name of the county. In later times the name of the patron saint was given to the great fort, making the modern appellation, Downpatrick. For many centuries prior to the introduction of Christianity, Downpatrick was the capital of the surrounding district, and the seat of the chiefs who governed it. The connection of St. Patrick with the place which now bears his name is not clear. There is no definite statement that the ancient church there owed its origin to him, such as exists in connection with the neighbouring churches of Raholp and Saul; but the evidence that he was interred at the little church that he or one of his disciples founded here appears strong. Situated as it was in the capital of the district, the church waxed in importance. The place

offered sufficient prospect of spoil to attract the attention of the Norsemen, who plundered it at least six times between the 10th and 12th centuries. When the adventurous John de Courcy arrived before Downpatrick with his followers in 1177, Rury MacDonlevy, King of Ulster, who resided there, taken by surprise, made but a feeble resistance, and the Anglo-Normans took possession of the place, built a castle, and made it their head-quarters. De Courcy founded a Benedictine Abbey here in 1183, dispossessing the Canons Regular who occupied the site ; and to Downpatrick he is stated to



DOWNPATRICK CATHEDRAL AND ROUND TOWER PRIOR TO 1790 A.D.

have conveyed, with much pomp, the remains of St. Brigit and St. Columba, two of the most famous of St. Patrick's followers, to be enshrined with the ashes of their great predecessor. This famous translation of the relics took place in 1186, in presence of Cardinal Vivian, who had come from Rome specially to be present at the ceremony. Bishop Reeves remarks that it is very probable that this translation was a political expedient of De Courcy, and that it was devised as a means of conciliating a conquered people. The event is referred to in the couplet which was

inscribed above the effigies of the three saints in the old cathedral :—

"*Hi tres in duno, tumulo tumulantur in uno*
Brigida, Patritius, atque Columba pius."

De Courcy dedicated the church to St. Patrick ; it had previously been the Church of the Holy Trinity, and James I. revived the original title by charter in 1601. Downpatrick was sacked by Edward Bruce in 1316, and the church burnt to the ground. The church of Bright, a few



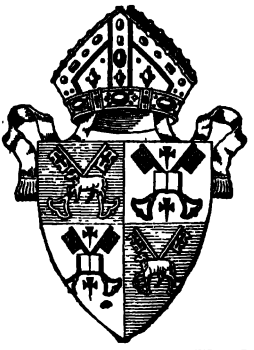
DOWNPATRICK CATHEDRAL FROM THE EAST.

miles distant, crowded with fugitives, was also burnt, with all its occupants. Such was war in the age of chivalry ! Downpatrick was rebuilt, but again in 1538 Lord Deputy Grey ravaged the town, and desecrated and destroyed the cathedral. For this and other outrages he was executed a few years later. The cathedral remained in a totally wrecked condition until the close of last century. Harris, writing in 1744, describes it as "yet venerable in its ruins." Its restoration was commenced in 1790, and com-

pleted in 1826, at a cost of £11,000. The ancient round tower, which rose beside the ruins to a considerable height, was taken down when the rebuilding was in progress, as it was feared that it might fall and injure the new church. An interesting painting preserved in the vestry shows the state of the cathedral and round tower prior to these operations (see illustration on p. 124). The present cathedral is a very simple building in the perpendicular style, consisting of choir, nave, and aisles; a lofty square tower rises at the west end. The east window, restored and filled with stained glass, is large and handsome; above it in three niches are figures of St. Patrick, St. Brigit, and St. Columbkille. They are much battered, having suffered severely at the hands of Lord Deputy Grey in 1538. Almost the only features that tell now of the 14th century church are some five or six stone capitals of the piers, grandly carved with animals' and human heads. The walls bear a number of tablets of stone or brass, including one erected by the officers and men of the 2nd Royal Irish Rifles to the memory of their comrades who fell in Egypt in the campaigns of 1888, 1889, and 1890; and near the door is a more ancient one to some members of the Cromwell family, of which the following is a transcription :—

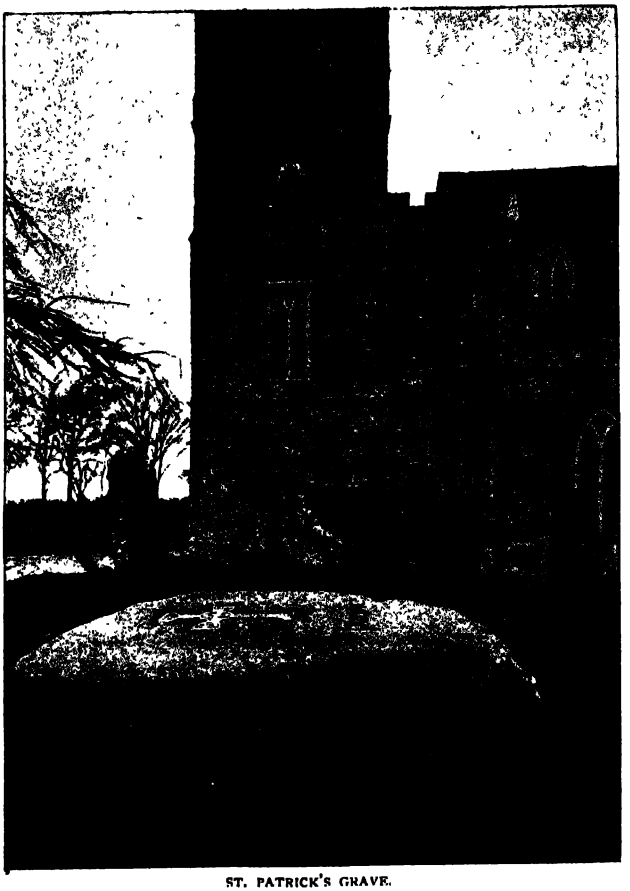
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The long line of Bishops of Down includes some great names. The famous St Malachy, who was in turn Abbot of Bangor, Bishop of Connor, Archbishop of Armagh, and Bishop of Down, occupied the see from 1136 till 1148, having voluntarily resigned the primacy in order to return to his work among the people. Five hundred years later Jeremy Taylor was Bishop of Down, and subsequently of both Down and Dromore, from 1660 till his death in 1667. The bishopric of Dromore (now united with that of Down) was afterwards held by Thomas Percy, editor of the *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*, from 1782 till 1811. Richard Mant, theologian, poet, and historian of the Irish Church, governed the united diocese of Down and Connor and Dromore from 1823 until 1848; and from 1886 till 1891 the same high office was held by William Reeves, foremost of local antiquaries. Downpatrick makes a strong claim to be the birth-place of Duns Scotus, the great philosopher, and founder of the school of the "Scotists." He is stated to have been an alumnus of the Franciscan monastery there.



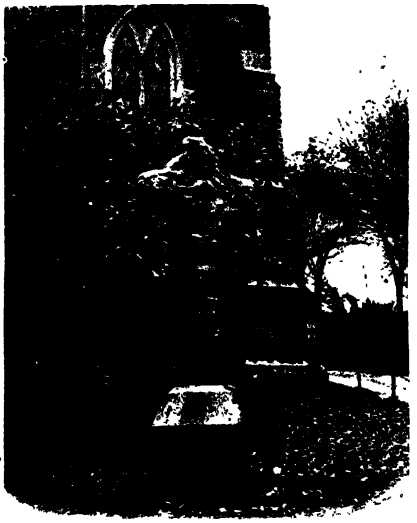
ARMS OF THE SEE OF DOWN AND CONNOR AND DROMORE.

In the graveyard on the south side of the cathedral St. Patrick is said to be buried. The spot is marked by a huge monolith of Mourne granite, rude and weather-worn, and untrimmed by human hand. On its surface is inscribed a Celtic cross of early design, and the name "Patric" in Irish characters. This simple but impressive monument was lately erected by public subscription. The granite cross which stands at the east end of the cathedral is the old Town Cross, which formerly occupied a site in the centre of the town, near the present Post Office, where De Courcy's castle stood. The fragments



ST. PATRICK'S GRAVE.

were gathered together and the cross restored, in 1897, by the efforts of the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club. The carving is much defaced by the exigencies which the cross has passed through, but a representation of the Crucifixion is traceable at the intersection of the arms; below it are four rows of figures in relief on both the back and the front; the sides are covered with interlaced work. A pyramidal block has been added on the top of the square stone which was the reputed base of the cross. Of several



THE RESTORED TOWN CROSS OF DOWNPATRICK.

early religious houses that existed here, held by the Franciscans, Cistercians, and other orders, no trace remains. The parish church, which stands near the centre of the town, was rebuilt in 1735; but the tower is much older, dating from about 1177. The Roman Catholic church stands on rising ground at the southern end of the town, and is a well-proportioned and handsome building

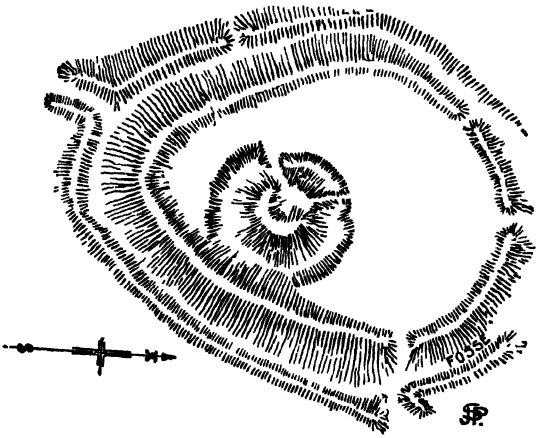
of grey granite. There is also a fine court-house and a large gaol near the cathedral, and an immense red brick lunatic asylum on the hills east of the town, standing in an enclosure of 120 acres. Including recent extensions, its cost was close on £100,000. Downpatrick had until lately a considerable trade, but during the present century has steadily declined, and its appearance now is distinctly dilapidated. Large houses stand unoccupied, and stores and factories are falling into decay. The population according to the last census is 3,132. The centre of the town is formed by the intersection of five streets on the low ground, and here stands a commodious town hall; from this point steep hills rise to east and west. The cathedral, court-house, &c., stand on the western eminence. If we ascend the eastern slope we reach Gallows Hill, so called on account of the place being used for the hanging of rebels in 1798; from this point we get a commanding view of the town and surrounding district, the windings of the Quoile, the Mourne Mountains, &c. Three good hotels meet the requirements of travellers.

ANTIQUITIES.—The cathedral, with the old town cross and reputed grave of St. Patrick, stands on the wooded eminence to the west of the town. We reach it by walking up English Street, passing on the right the court-house and old gaol (at the gate of which Russell was executed for treason in 1803), and on the left the alms-house and schools built and endowed by Mr. Southwell early in the eighteenth century. To visit the great dun we take the road to the cathedral, turn to the right round the court-house, and cross a couple of low fields, with the high walls of the new gaol on our right. The dun presents to the visitor approaching it from the town a fosse about 40 feet wide and 9 feet deep, beyond which rises a huge rampart over 50 feet in height, and very steep. Beyond this rampart the ground drops 20 feet into a large oval enclosure, inside which, at one side, a mound rises 30



DOWNPATRICK FROM GALLOWS HILL

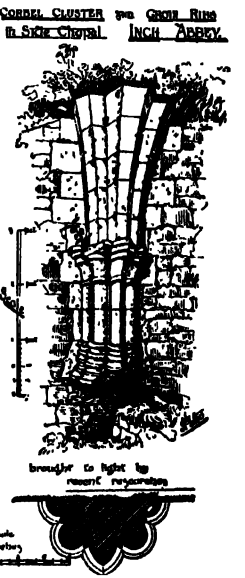
feet above its general level, surrounded by a ditch 10 feet deep. The great outer rampart is much higher on the landward or eastern side, and the ditch below it much deeper than on the other sides, which abut on the marshes. The western side of the central mound has been partially removed. The works cover an egg-shaped area of about 750 × 550 feet. Though no doubt much impaired by the ravages of time, this fort is still a gigantic structure, and its imposing appearance cannot fail to impress the visitor. In olden times the sea flowed up every tide over



PLAN OF THE GREAT DUN OF DOWNPATRICK

the flats by the Quoile, almost surrounding the rath, and lapping the outskirts of the town. The construction of sluice-gates at Quoile Bridge, a mile below the town, has shut out the sea, and converted the slob-lands into low pastures, and marshes tenanted by myriads of wild-fowl. St. Patrick's grave, and the old Town Cross referred to on p. 127, comprise the other relics of antiquity in the town. The surrounding district is very rich in early remains, both pre-Christian and Christian, and the antiquary should make a point of devoting a day to their examination. We

will now make a tour of them. Leaving Downpatrick, at a distance of one mile we cross Quoile Bridge, and admire the pretty scenery along the Quoile River (*cuaille*, a pole)—high woods of Oak rising from the reed-fringed banks of the stream. We turn to the left beyond the bridge, and half-a-mile further turn again to the left. The road leads along the flat meadows by the Quoile, and a short mile brings us to a gate on the left-hand side, through which we pass along a shady avenue to the ruins of **INCH ABBEY** (*inis*, an island), standing in picturesque decay on the river margin, embosomed in trees. That the site was originally an island there can be no doubt. It is still surrounded by swampy meadows, with a sub-soil of marine clay, and on the west side, by the railway, may still be seen an old raised embankment connecting it with the adjoining high land. Harris (1744) describes it and maps it as a peninsula connected with the mainland by a narrow neck. This island was called Iniscouscry (*inis Cumhscraidh*), after one of the sons of Connor MacNessa; Couscry was slain A.D. 33, after a reign of three years on the throne of Ulster. In this secluded retreat a little church stood in early times; the date and history of its foundation are lost, but it was in existence at the end of the 10th century. Three years after De Courcy's arrival at Downpatrick, in 1180, he founded a monastery here, conducted by Cistercian monks whom he brought over from Furness Abbey, in Lancashire, to atone, it is said, for the destruction of the Abbey of Erenagh, a few miles to the southward, which, having been fortified against him, he had ravaged with fire and sword. From the little that now remains,



the buildings appear to have been of considerable architectural beauty. The chancel still stands, lighted by three beautiful lancet windows of Early English design; most of the rest of the abbey church, and of the surrounding buildings, have almost disappeared. The church was 170 feet long, with nave and aisles, each transept furnished on the eastern side with two small chapels. Adjoining the church were the sacristy, chapter-house, and fratry, arranged according to the usual Cistercian plan. The



INCH ABBEY.

ancient church, beside which the abbey was built, stood till comparatively lately in the middle of the cemetery. Its design and character indicated a very great antiquity, but it was ruthlessly destroyed to make room for a mausoleum. The ruins of the abbey are now conserved by the owner of the soil, R. Perceval-Maxwell, D.L., whose beautiful demesne of Finnebrogue adjoins on the north.

Retracing our steps and recrossing the bridge, we turn to the left down the winding edge of the river. We pass the locks by means of which the sea is excluded from the low grounds around Downpatrick, and skirt the tidal

portion of the estuary. A mile below the bridge we visit Quoile Castle, a small square tower guarding a narrow portion of the inlet, and now cracked and dilapidated. If we retrace our steps half-a-mile to the quay, and take the road to the left for a mile, we reach the site of the ancient Abbey of **SAUL** (*sabhal*, a barn), where St. Patrick first preached the Gospel in Ireland, and made his first convert to Christianity—Dichu, the lord of the territory, who lent him the barn in which his first Irish Christian service was held. Here arose one of the earliest churches in Ireland, named after the humble building where the saint had preached. St. Patrick placed in charge of it St. Dunnius, one of his disciples; he is stated to have favoured the place frequently with his presence, when resting from his missionary labours, and here he died in A.D. 493. The Abbey of Saul appears to have suffered severely at the hands of enemies. It was almost destroyed by the Danes; and, being built anew by St. Malachy—the famous Malachi O'Morgair, Bishop of Down—in the 12th century, it was sacked by Magnus O'Eochadha, King of Ulster, in 1170, and subsequently by Edward Bruce in 1316. The present church, which stands on the ancient site, and is approached by two formal avenues lined with Irish Yews, is a white-washed structure of remarkable plainness, and not inaptly bears the title of *Sabhal*. In the surrounding graveyard fragments of ancient buildings may still be seen, and two small vaulted chambers of stone; but these have not been identified. The site of the first Christian edifice erected in Ireland is a pleasing one. It stands high, and commands a magnificent prospect to the northward. The winding Quoile and island-studded lough of Strangford lie before us, with the town of Killyleagh; and far beyond the rolling hillocks which intervene rise Scrabo Hill and the Belfast mountains, with Slieve Croob dominating the county to the westward.

From Saul we keep the eastern road for two miles, and passing through the hamlet of **RAHOLP**, lying in a pretty valley, we reach the remains of one of the most

ancient edifices in the county. This is the little church formerly called *Rath-colpa* (Raholp), now locally known as *Church-moyley*. It stands on a low mound, apparently originally a rath, about a hundred yards on the right-hand side of the road. The voice of antiquity assigns the foundation of this church to St. Patrick, and at the hand of its first bishop, St. Tassach (according to the hymn written by St. Fiach, Bishop of Sletty, and a disciple of St. Patrick, in the 6th century), he received the communion before he died. This venerable edifice is constructed of rough stones cemented with yellow clay instead of mortar—a feature found in several of the ancient edifices of the district: a mile and a-half N.E. of Portaferry, for instance, two small chapels placed close together are built in this fashion. The church of Raholp measures about 33 feet by 21 feet. A few years ago the primitive little east window, till then unscathed, was allowed to fall to pieces, although the building is one of the national antiquities vested in the Government. This window was 4 feet 6 inches high and 10 inches wide, broadly splayed on the inside, and finished, not by an arch, but by a flat flag. One jamb is all that now remains. The walls are much ruined; an Elder tree, growing in the north wall, has overturned it. Other Elders fill the interior of the building, and Tansy is running riot among the ancient graves around it.

From this neglected site of early Christianity we return as far as Raholp village, and take a road that turns to the left. On the left-hand side, close to four cross-roads which we meet three-quarters of a mile from the village, stands Lough Money cromleac. This dolmen differs from the type, inasmuch as the cap-stone rests on two stones only, which stand parallel on edge. The cap-stone is 12 feet long and 5 feet wide, and both it and the supports are rough blocks of Ordovician grit. Pursuing our way, we turn to the right half-a-mile south of the cromleac. Our road passes close by the southern end of Lough Money (*loch muine*, the lake of the shrubbery), lying placidly at the foot of the steep rocky slope of Slieve-na-griddle (*sliabh-na-griddle*,

the mountain of the griddle—the *griddle* being a cromleac), its surface broken only by the leaves and blossoms of the Water-Lilies. A few hundred yards beyond the lake, close to the road on the left-hand side, stands the stone circle of Ballyalton. This monument is much ruined, only about a quarter of the circle now remaining—upright slabs of Ordovician grit—with an odd stone to mark the position of the rest. But the Ballyalton circle is of special interest as exhibiting a feature found in only one similar monument in the district. On the north-east side of the ring there are several

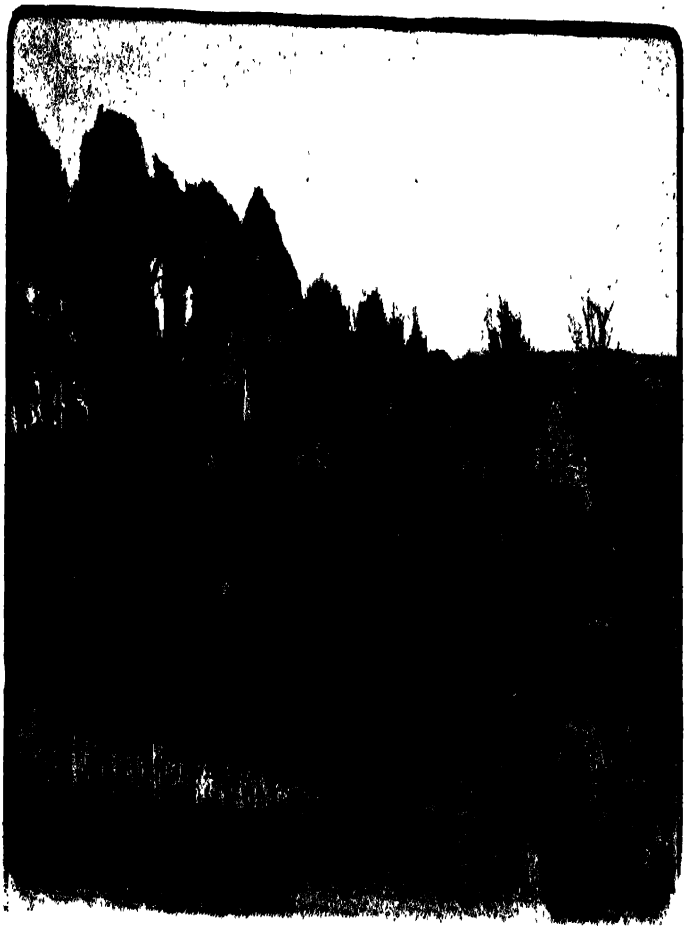


ST. PATRICK'S HOLY WELLS, STRUELL.

parallel rows of stones set at right angles to that part of the periphery. The two inner rows are the best marked, and consist of long blocks of stone set on edge; traces of two other rows appear outside of the avenue thus formed. The thorn bushes which grow among the upright stones appear to be under the special protection of the fairies, for when, some years ago, a man ventured to take cuttings off them, the plates danced that night on the dresser in his kitchen! Slieve-na-griddle (414 feet) is worth ascending for the fine view of the surrounding country which it commands. On its

summit a cromleac formerly existed—as described by Harris (1744) and Dubourdieu (1802); all that now remains is the cap-stone, lying on the top of the hill. Another mile—we are now travelling westward towards Downpatrick—brings us to the vicinity of St. Patrick's Wells at **STRUELL** (*sruthair*, a stream), once a famous resort of pilgrims, but now quite out of vogue, deserted and ruinous. A rough lane, turning to the left, leads to the once famous spot. A clear stream, which flows down a little valley, supplies the water that till recently was considered so efficacious in the washing away of diseases. Wells have been dug along its course, and covered in with stone-built huts, "to which," writes Harris in 1744, "vast throngs of rich and poor resort on Midsummer Eve and the Friday before Lammas, some in hopes of obtaining health, and others to perform penances." Disturbances having occurred here on several occasions early in the present century, the Roman Catholic clergy discouraged these practices, and the place is now quite deserted. Beside the wells stand the ruins of a chapel dedicated to St. Patrick. It was intended to replace a much older structure, but was never finished. The largest of the wells, to which dressing-rooms are attached, was used for bathing, the others for the washing of certain portions of the body. From Struell we return to Downpatrick (2 miles), having made altogether a round of 14 miles.

Another interesting excursion that may be made from Downpatrick is to **LOUGHINISLAND** (*inis-un-lochain*, the island of the little lake), 6 miles. To reach it we take the Dundrum road and turn to the right, two miles out, past the end of Ballydugan Lough. The lake called Loughinisland is about ¾ mile in length, prettily situated among low hills and copses. A long narrow island, fringed with reeds and covered with dark pine-trees, rises near the centre, approached by a causeway from the west bank, and among the trees are the ruins of three churches of different ages. The largest of the three appears to be the most modern. Two stones with ancient



LOUGHINISLAND.

Walch's Irish Views.

inscriptions are built into the inside face of the south wall. The second church is evidently of great antiquity, but its ivy-smothered walls show no distinctive architectural features. The third, known as MacArtan's Chapel, bears over the small doorway the letters $\frac{M}{P\ C}$ (Phelim MacCartan or MacArtan) and the date 1636, carved in the dressed Castle Espie limestone of which the jambs and arch are built. The waters of the lake yield some good plants, among which are several Charas and the Hexandrous Waterwort (*Elatine hexandra*). At the four cross-roads at the Buck's Head, at the north end of the lake, a cromleac stands on a little knoll. The capstone is a mass of Ordovician grit, measuring 9 × 7 × 2½ feet, and is much glaciated, being rounded and striated. It covers a small chamber made of several blocks, one of which is also well glaciated, and of a number of smaller stones. This structure formerly occupied the interior of a carn 60 yards in circumference, the stones composing which were removed for building purposes in the last century. The chamber contained bones and ashes. It was at this place that Russell tried to raise Emmet's standard of revolt in 1803.

NATURAL HISTORY.—For the naturalist, the neighbourhood of the ancient town of Downpatrick has many attractions. The botanical interest of the district centres in the extensive marshes which lie west of the town, and in the deep slow-flowing stream. In autumn the marshes are tinged red-brown with the immense profusion of fruiting stems of the Great Water Dock (*Rumex Hydrolapathum*); with it grow the rayed form of the Bur-Marigold (*Bidens cernua* var. *radiata*), and in the ditches the beautiful Water-Violet (*Hottonia palustris*) and the Horn-wort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*). The Crosswort (*Galium Cruciata*), so common in England, has one of its two Irish stations on the great dun. The South European *Erinus alpinus* is naturalised on the walls of the gaol adjoining. In marshy spots in the neighbourhood grow the Cranberry (*Schollera oxycoccus*), Twig-Rush (*Claasium germanicum*), Drooping Bog Sedge (*Carex limosa*), and Slender-leaved Sedge (*C. filiformis*). To the zoologist, the marshes, rocky hills, and muddy shores offer a varied field for investigation. The geologist should visit "Sampson's Stone," a huge erratic block of crystalline dolerite, measuring about 14×8×6 feet. It lies on the summit of an eminence half-a-mile southward of the town, and presumably was carried hither by ice from Scrabo Hill or the highlands of Antrim.

7.—ST. JOHN'S POINT, KILLOUGH, ARDGLASS, STRANGFORD.

DOWNPATRICK forms the best centre from which to explore the pretty and interesting maritime district that stretches along the southern end of Strangford Lough, and on along the Irish Sea coast to St. John's Point. A branch line recently constructed under the Light Railways scheme brings us from Downpatrick south-eastward across low hills to the sea. A mile out of Downpatrick we leave the main line to Newcastle and bend sharply to the left.



STONE CIRCLE, BALLYNOE.

At BALLYNOE (*baile nua*, the new town), a wayside station three miles out, we alight to visit the finest stone circle in the county. To reach it we take a lane that runs westward from the road at the level crossing close to the station, and it is within five minutes' walk. It consists of a complete circle of large stones, inside which is an incomplete ellipse of smaller stones, the longer axis of the latter almost equalling the diameter of the circle. The outer ring is about 100 feet across; the inner one about 90 feet by 40 feet. The largest stone stands 6 feet 6 inches high, is 6 feet long, and 3 feet thick. Most of the stones are Ordovician grit, but a few are

erratic blocks of granite. About a dozen large stones stand or lie in the vicinity of the monument, but their connection with it is not clear. Altogether, about 80 large blocks have been collected to form this remarkable monument.

Half-a-mile west of the circle, a conspicuous rath occupies a hill-top, differing from most of these structures in having the northern portion of its elevated enclosure occupied by an oval flat-topped mound, rising about 10 feet above the general level. The fort is surrounded by a deep and perfect fosse, in which water still lies. The rampart rises steeply to a height of 20 feet, or 30 feet on the side where the mound is situated. On a hill-top half-a-mile further westward stand the ruins of Castle Screen, the Greencastel, *Viride Castrum*, or Castle Cryn of the State Papers. This, and Bright Castle, which will be referred to immediately, were small fortresses built by the Anglo-Normans to protect their line of communication between Downpatrick and Ardglass. Castle Screen they built on a hill which long before had been selected as a site for an earthen fort, and the square masonry tower was placed on the south-east edge of the rath. Only a fragment of the castle now remains; it commands a grand view of the Mourne Mountains, Dundrum Bay, and the district of Lecale. Bright Castle, which stands 2 miles south-east of Ballynoe Station, and looks down on Killough and Ardglass, and all the expanse of sea to the east and south, is a plain tower 20 feet square, with walls a yard thick. The church which stands hard by was originally founded by St. Loarn, a contemporary of St. Patrick. This is the church that was burned by Edward Bruce in 1316, with all its crowd of fugitives; and in later and happier times the first Sunday-school in Ireland was founded here, in 1782. Close by, in the townland of Grangewalls, about the year 1842, a beautiful vessel of gilt copper, enamelled in three colours, was turned up by the plough. It was of the famous work

of Limoges, and the style of the design proved it to belong to about the year 1200 A.D. It was remarkable for its chasteness of design and elegance of workmanship. Such vessels were used for the wine and water for consecration at the altar, and no doubt the phial belonged to the ancient church of Bright.*



ANCIENT ECCLESIASTICAL VESSEL FOUND AT BRIGHT.

A quick run down hill and across an estuarine flat, where bricks are made, brings us to **KILLOUGH** Station (7 miles). The village (pop. 585) is built round the edge of the bay south of the railway station. It consists of a broad street, prettily planted with shady Sycamore trees, and containing a clean and remarkably cheap little hotel. Adjoining the village is a fine alms-house, one of five built in Ireland on the bequest of Mr. Charles Sheils, a successful Liverpool merchant, who was a native of Killough. He was born 1782, and died 1861, leaving £90,000 to found the "Sheils Institutes." The small harbour here is frequented by fishing-boats. The place derives its name (*cill-locha*, the church of the lake) from the Strand Lough, which lies close to the station, formed by the damming back of the waters of the low ground by an old raised beach along which the railway runs. South of Killough, glacial gravels, cemented together into a hard conglomerate, stand up boldly above the shore-line. Two miles south of Killough is **ST. JOHN'S POINT**, where a very ancient church and a very modern lighthouse claim attention. The ruins of the Church of St. John

* See *Ulst. Journ. Arch.*, vol. ii., p. 192. 1854.

stand in a field by the roadside a few hundred yards north of the lighthouse. This is one of the earliest ecclesiastical buildings in the county. It measures 20×13 feet internally. The east window is, unfortunately, completely demolished, but is described as having been small and narrow, terminating above in an acute angle formed by the inclination of two flags. In the south wall is a small window, narrower above than below, and covered by a single flag instead of an arch. The doorway in the west wall is of similar construction, 2 feet wide below the lintel, 3 feet wide at the threshold. "This seems," says Dr. Reeves, "to be the church of *Stechian*, which was granted, about the year 1183, by Malachi, Bishop of Down, to the Abbey of St. Patrick." Close to this venerable relic towers the tall white lighthouse that, day and night, keeps watch and ward over the reefs of St. John's Point—

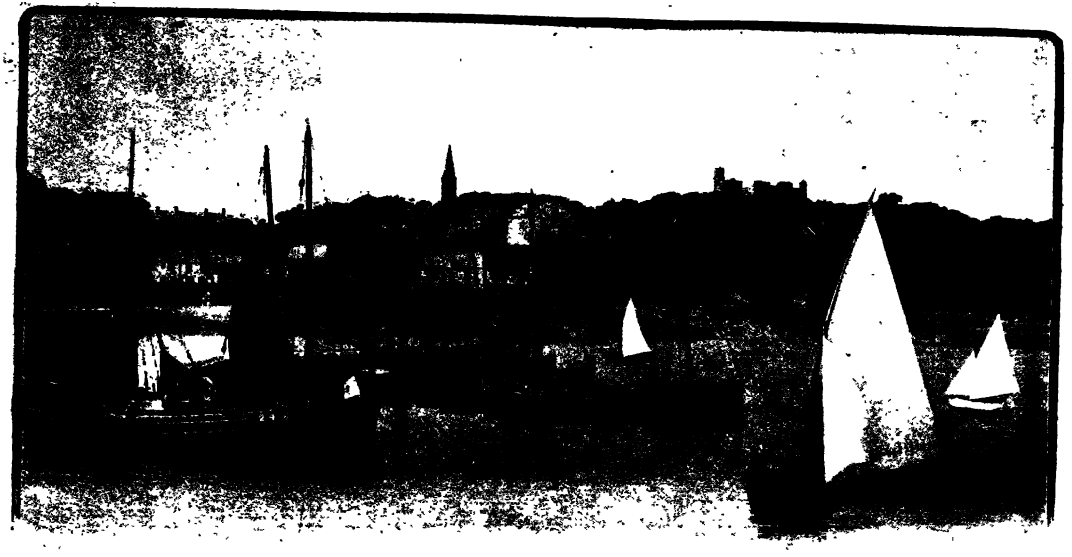
> Through the endless summer evenings, on the lineless, level floors;
> Through the yelling Channel tempest when the siren hoots and roars.

The tower rises 140 feet above the water, and shows a red revolving light with a maximum power of 130,000 candles, and also a lower fixed red and white light for the guidance of coasting traffic. The machinery and fittings are of the most recent type, the lighthouse having been finished in 1893. From its lofty balcony a beautiful view is obtained across Dundrum Bay to the Mourne Mountains. The reefs of Ordovician rock that fringe the shore in this district are of much interest to the geologist, being well glaciated from the north-west, and penetrated by very many basaltic dykes, some porphyritic, others amygdaloidal or sphæroidal, with a general south-east bearing. From St. John's Point, a pretty walk of 2½ miles by the shore brings us back to Killough. From Killough Station to Ardglass by rail is 1½ mile; by the road from village to village 2½ miles. We recommend

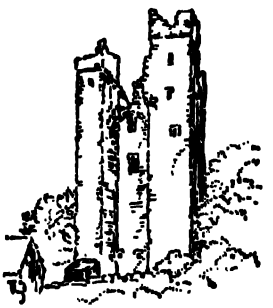
the pedestrian to keep to the shore along the north side of Killough Bay, where he will see a fine section of the glacial deposits, and beautifully glaciated rocks, and on along the picturesque "Downs" to

ARDGLASS.

Ardglass (*ard-glas*, the green height, from the hillocks that rise north and south of the town), formerly one of the foremost ports in the North of Ireland, is picturesquely situated on the slopes surrounding a small but deep bay. Its nautical importance is now almost confined to the fishing industry, of which it is a well-known centre. Several castles remain to mark its former greatness; and since the opening of the railway the place is again rising into favour, on account of its conspicuous advantages as a seaside resort. Good hotels have sprung up, and plenty of lodgings are available. The present (1891) population of the town is 544. At the time of the Anglo-Norman invasion, the possession of Ardglass was deemed of so much moment that seven castles were built by De Courcy for its protection. The harbour no doubt formed an important base for the operations of the English, whose head-quarters were then at Downpatrick, and who were isolated by the mountain regions of Mourne and Carlingford from their brethren inside the "Pale," which extended as far north as Dundalk. In the reign of Henry IV. a trading company established themselves here under a grant from that monarch. Ardglass was then a corporate town and Royal borough, returning members to Parliament. To this company and to subsequent traders is ascribed the erection of the castles and fortified stores that now occupy, in picturesque decay, conspicuous sites in the town. Jordan's Castle, the most perfect of these, rises among the houses near the quay. It is stated to derive its name from Jordan de Saukvill, a Norman whose family had settled here in 1177, and who was confirmed in his possessions by Henry III. in



ARDGLASS FROM THE HARBOUR.
Welch's Irish Views.



JORDAN'S CASTLE, ARDGLASS

1217. This castle successfully withstood the onslaughts of the insurgents for three years during the Earl of Tyrone's rebellion in the reign of Elizabeth: its stout defender, Simon Jordan, was eventually relieved by Lord Deputy Mountjoy, and received due rewards for his valour. The castle is a lofty and slender tower, 70 feet high, of graceful architecture, and in an excellent state of preservation; its grim stonework is brightened by a profusion of yellow Wallflower and white Scurvy-grass. The Jordan arms—a cross and three horse-shoes—are to be seen on a stone near the top, and one corner tower is occupied by a still perfect columbarium. In the great rebellion of 1641 Ardglass fell for a while into the hands of the Irish. Subsequently, its importance seems to have rapidly waned, and it is only recently that the town has again enjoyed the sun of prosperity. King's Castle and Queen's Castle disappeared about half a century ago, and from the ruins arose the present King's Castle, a fine modern mansion overlooking the harbour. The New Works consisted of a singular range of buildings on the shore at the southern end of the town, believed to have been used as a fortified warehouse by the early merchants. The greater part of this structure and the adjoining tower of Horn Castle were converted by Lord Lecale in 1790 into the present Ardglass Castle. Among the trees adjoining stand the ruins of Cowd Castle—a name of unknown origin; and in the street hard by rises Margaret's Castle: like Cowd Castle, it is a plain square tower, and probably both formed portion of the defences of the "New Works." In spite of the former importance of Ardglass and its

buildings, the history of most of the ruins that remain is wrapped in obscurity.

Ardglass Harbour is convenient and secure, with sufficient water to allow vessels of 500 tons burthen to enter and leave at all states of the tide; £25,000 were spent on its improvement about twenty years ago. It is the head-quarters of the northern herring trade, in which about 3,000 fishermen are engaged. A regatta is held here annually.

In 1813 the present Protestant church was built on the site of the old church, which had lain in ruins for two hundred years. Among the *débris* was found the curious stone which may be seen built into the wall of the porch. It is sculptured with two coats-of-arms and a representation of the Crucifixion, and in curiously intertwined raised letters of Early English character is the inscription:—

Live to die
and fer the Lord
amend your life
and sine no mor
for dethe is
yr rewarde

Be pasient
in weil and wo
when is the end
. . . .
and fast and pre
and wache th . .

Maria Janes
Thomas Janes

mother to
gentleman

A.D. 1585.

The visitor will delight in the high common, known as the Downs, which overlooks the rock-bound coast south of the town. The short velvety turf, through which the rock bursts here and there, is variegated with patches of pink and blue and yellow and white—the blossoms of Sea-Pink, Vernal Squill, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Sea Campion, and Scurvy-grass. Below, the uptilted slates stand sharp as the teeth of a saw, plunging down into deep green water, with white foam along the margin. An illimitable expanse of glittering sea lies in front, the horizon only broken by the blue hills of distant Manxland. Northward we see Guns Island, near the mouth of Strangford

Lough; southward, nothing but sea. The clear pure air blows in off the water, and a more delightful spot than the Downs of Ardglass on a summer's day cannot be imagined. West of the Downs, and south of the town, is the hill called the Ward of Ardglass. A road beautifully shaded with trees leads to its summit, which is crowned with a circular turret known as the Isabella Tower, used as a coastguard watchhouse. From this vantage-point a glorious view discloses itself. Below us on the north lies the little town and the harbour, with the hill called the Ward of Ardtole rising over its further shore, and the



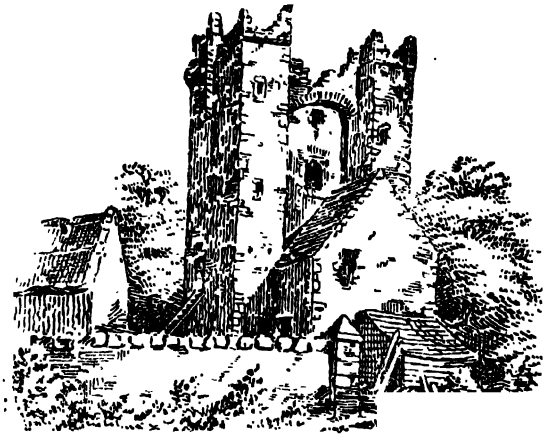
ARDGLASS HARBOUR FROM KING'S CASTLE.

ruined church of Ardtole on its summit; eastward, the broad Irish Sea and the Isle of Man; southward and eastward, St. John's Point and lighthouse, the harbour and village of Killough, the white hamlet of Coney Island, and the wide sweep of Dundrum Bay, backed by the peaks of the Mourne Mountains. The portion of the Downs nearest to the town is fenced off, and forms the grounds of Ardglass Castle. Here an excellent golf-course has been laid out, and is maintained and used by the Ardglass Golf Club. The course is a sufficiently exciting one, lying

along the shore and back again, over the short turf which rises and falls in miniature mountains, with here and there a reef of rock forming a hazard, enough to make the bravest turn pale. The club has over 150 members, and visitors are admitted for long or short periods at very low rates. The very ancient church of St. Nicholas stands on the summit of the hill of Ardtole (*ard Tuathail*, Tuathal's height), half-a-mile north of Ardglass. This was formerly the parish church of Ardglass, but, as recorded in the *Terrier* of 1615, "wood kern of M'Cartane's country upon a time when the inhabitants were at mass killed them all; whereupon it was brought within the town." The east wall, containing a large arched window which looks out over the sea, still remains, as well as the side walls; the church was appropriately dedicated to St. Nicholas, the patron of sailors. Hard by the church is one of the finest souterrains in the county. It is 118 feet long, 3½ feet wide, and 4½ feet high, widening to a rounded end 7 feet wide and 5½ feet high. A small chamber is placed on one side of the passage, which is divided into three compartments by stone partitions with small openings through them. At present the entrance to the souterrain is covered over, the owner being afraid of injury to the structure.

From Ardglass the return to Downpatrick may be varied by making a detour to Strangford (9 miles, and thence 8½ miles to Downpatrick). Passing Ardtole on the right, the road runs northward through undulating fertile country. On the right-hand side of the road, half-a-mile beyond Ardtole, is the "Cross of Ardtole," a small mound resembling a grave, with blocks of grit arranged on it in the form of the spots on a "five" at cards. Nothing is known concerning this monument. We pass Chapeltown, where we may examine an Anglo-Norman grave-slab of unusual and beautiful design, built into the wall of Dunsford Chapel, having been brought from Ardtole Church. A large slab of the same age is in the Protestant church-

yard half-a-mile north. On the shore, in the townland of Sheepland Beg, adjoining on the south, there is a "rag well," called St. Patrick's well, where pious pilgrims still leave shreds of cloth, according to the ancient Celtic custom. A turn to the right, three miles from Ardglass, leads us down to Ballyhornan Bay, a noble sweep of sand and shingle, with Guns Island lying at its southern end. Separated from Ballyhornan by a rocky point is Benderg Bay, another pretty spot, with Killard Hill



KILCLIEF CASTLE.

rising over it. Our by-road rises and drops over the ridge, and we look down on the rock-bound entrance of Strangford Lough. Right opposite in mid-channel lies the dangerous Angus Rock, marked by a tall white beacon, with the low reefs of Ballyquintin Point behind it. Our road now runs along the margin of the deep and narrow channel. Three miles from Ballyhornan we pass **KILCLIEF** (*cill cleithe*, the hurdle church), a name no doubt derived from the materials of which the

church was originally constructed. Close to the modern church, which represents one of the most ancient ecclesiastical foundations in the country, rises the old castle, a grim square battlemented tower, guarding the entrance of the lough. It is believed to date from the early part of the 14th century, and its erection is ascribed to some of the Anglo-Norman nobles who at that time held sway in Southern Down. Later, it was occupied as a manor by the Bishops of Down. It is still in a good state of preservation, well roofed, and is used as a store. There is a winding stair in the south-east projection, and the remains of a two-light window of 14th century character. About the graveyard and church will be seen several interesting early grave-slabs of Anglo-Norman pattern. Another 2½ miles of pretty road brings us to the village of **STRANGFORD** (pop. 392), beautifully situated on a small but deep recess in the rocky shores of the tide-swept channel, directly opposite the town of Portaferry. North of the village lies Old Court, the residence of Lord de Ros, embosomed in trees. The grounds contain a quaint chapel—built in 1629 for George, 16th Earl of Kildare—which is still regularly used for worship. The village is rambling and picturesque. In its centre rises a square keep, which has been repaired and is now used for domestic purposes. From the quay, boats continually ply to and from Portaferry. Leaving Strangford for Downpatrick, the road runs inland over a ridge, and drops down again to the head of a shallow inlet, beyond which rise the rich woods of Castleward, the estate of Viscount Bangor; on a promontory to the right, on the top of a green mound, stands the square keep of Audley's Castle (so called after the Anglo-Norman family who held it), another of the numerous fortresses with which the English guarded their possessions in Ulster. The ancient Castle Ward stands on the shore of a little bay a short distance south of Audley's Castle; it is a picturesque square tower, with a battlemented summit, now surrounded

by farm buildings. The grounds of Castleward also contain two fine pillar-stones, one upright and one fallen, and a grand avenue of ancient Yew-trees. Our road now ascends, and then runs westward, with rocky heath-covered hills to the left and woods to the right, and we pass several lakelets filled with water-plants. In one of them, on the north side of the road, the Twig-rush (*Cladium germanicum*) and Slender-leaved Sedge (*Carex filiformis*), two of the rarest plants of the north-east of Ireland, grow abundantly. Further on we see, down by the shore on the right, Myra Castle, a modern castellated mansion, with the ancient keep of Walshestown Castle, an ivy-covered fortress still in an excellent state of preservation, rising close beside it. On our left is the early church of Raholp, previously visited; further on we again see Quoile Castle, and 8½ miles from Strangford we reach Downpatrick.

8.—DOWNPATRICK TO DUNDRUM AND NEWCASTLE.

WE resume our journey at Downpatrick. The railway, which has swung round eastward into the station, finds itself in a *cul-de-sac*, and has no alternative but to return for a short distance the way it came. Half-a mile out it bends sharply southward, skirting the marshes of the Quoile. The branch line to Ardglass turns off to the left, and we plunge into a deep cutting through a mound of glacial drift, noting its boldly rain-sculptured banks. Soon we pass Ballydugan lake, fringed with Bulrushes and dotted with Water-Lilies, and draw up at the new station of Tullymurry (4 miles), the nearest station for the village of CLOUGH (a contraction of *dough-magh-rechat*, the stone of the plain of the fort of the battle), where stand the vestiges of a castle built, like Castle Screen, inside an earthen rath, and SEAFORDE,

adjoining which is Colonel Forde's fine demesne. Beyond Tullymurry we strike the muddy northern end of the Inner Bay of Dundrum, and skirt its margin. On the right stands Mount Panther among tall trees. Now the bay broadens. Across the water rise yellow sand-dunes flanking each side of the narrow entrance, and the imposing castle ruin rising on a hill to our right tells us of our approach to Dundrum (7½ miles from Downpatrick, 34 miles from Belfast).

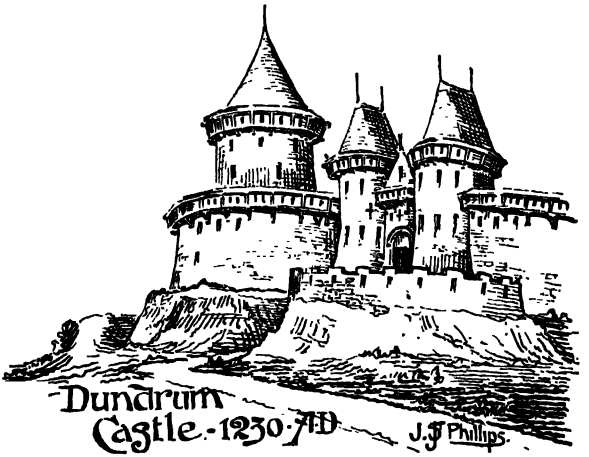


DUNDRUM AND THE INNER BAY, FROM THE CASTLE.

DUNDRUM.

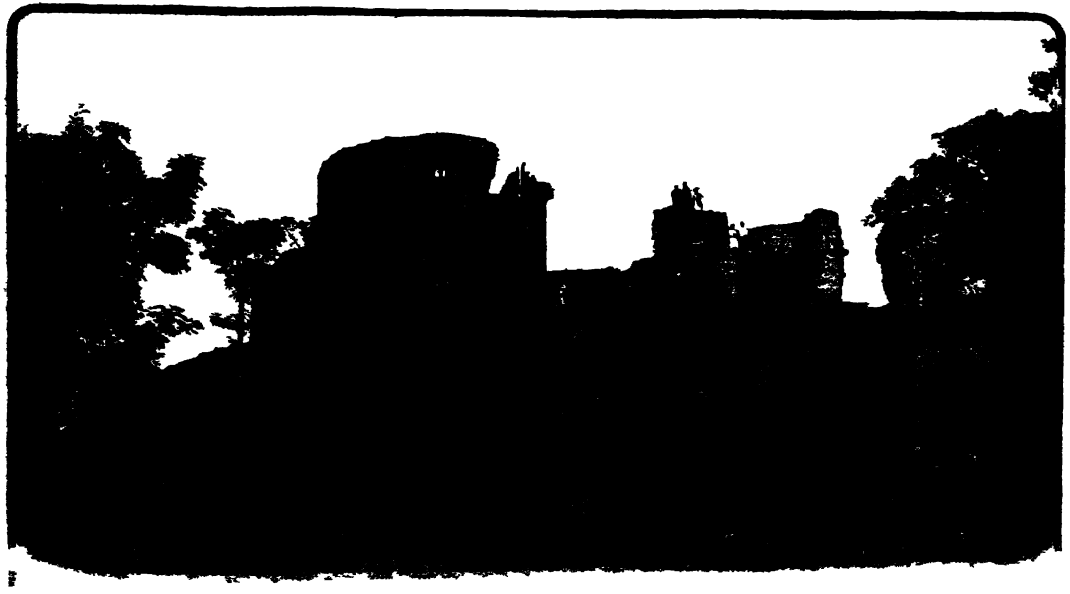
Dundrum (pop. 474) is a clean and pleasant village with a wide street shaded by trees, and a pretty church at either end, each standing on a lawn planted with hydrangeas. The street stretches along the margin of the Inner Bay, which is shaped like a fish's tail or the head of a hammer. The village faces the narrow entrance, beyond which we see the waves of the Irish Sea breaking on the bar. A channel of several fathoms in depth leads up to the quay; but right and left the water is very shallow, and at low

tide we may ford the bay from Dundrum to the sand-dunes opposite. The chief attraction of Dundrum is the grand Anglo-Norman fortress which stands, majestic in its ruins, on the low wooded hill overlooking the town and bay. Its erection is ascribed to De Courcy, who is believed to have built it for the Knights Templar, about the end of the 12th century. Since very early times the mound of Dundrum had been used for purposes of war or defence, and the castle was erected on the site of a



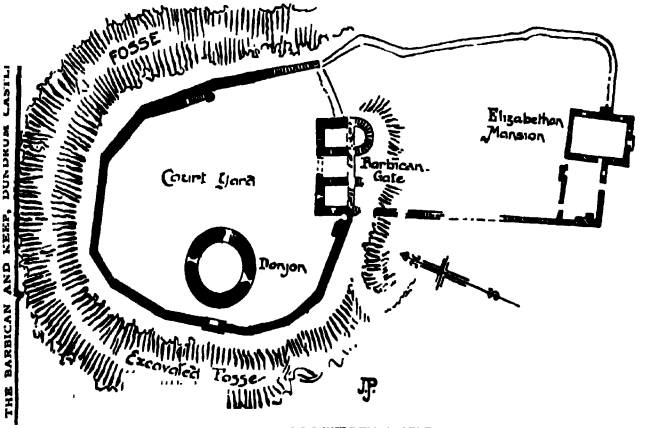
DUNDRUM CASTLE IN ITS PRIME—A RESTORATION.

rath known as *Dun Rudhraidhe*—Rury's fort—and mentioned under this name in the ancient annals. The present name, Dundrum (the fort on the ridge), was also derived from this ancient structure, of which the fosse yet remains, forming the ditch which protected De Courcy's castle walls. Here it was that Bricriu of the Poisoned Tongue gave the great feast to King Connor MacNessa and the Red Branch Knights which was destined to give rise to so much strife, as recounted in the *Leabhar na h'Uidhré*, the most ancient manuscript in the Royal Irish



THE BARBICAN AND KEEP DUNDRUM CASTLE

Academy's priceless collection. The castle which the Anglo-Normans erected on Rury's Fort was one of the strongest fortresses in Ulster. "I assure your lordeship," wrote Lord Deputy Grey to Thomas Crumwell, Lord Privy Seal, in 1539, "as yt standyth, [it] ys one of the strongyst holtes that ever I sawe in Irelande, and moost commodius for defence in the hole countre of Lecayll,* both by see and lande;"† and the Lord Deputy had had a considerable experience of Irish strongholds. Dundrum Castle, like the other vantage-points in the district, had



THE BARBICAN AND KEEP, DUNDRUM CASTLE

PLAN OF DUNDRUM CASTLE.

a lurid and tempestuous career. The Irish held it when Gerald, Earl of Kildare, took it by storm in 1517. Then it fell into the hands of the Magennises, from whom it was taken by Lord Grey in 1539. Shane O'Neill repaired it and held it against the English in 1566. Lord Mountjoy wrested it from Phelim Magennis in 1601. From the MacArtans it passed over to Lord Cromwell in 1605; and his grandson, the first Earl of Ardglass, sold it to Sir

* Lecayll, *i.e.*, *Leath Cathail*, Cathal's half, now the baronies of Upper and Lower Lecale, extending from Dundrum to Strangford and Ardglass.

† *State Papers*, Henry VIII., vol. iii., no. cclxxx.

Francis Blundell in 1636. It was dismantled by Oliver Cromwell in 1652. The ruins as they stand to-day are impressive. The circular donjon keep still towers imposingly to a height of about 50 feet. It measures 45 feet in external diameter, and its walls are 8 feet thick. It stands towards the western side of a courtyard or bawn, roughly circular in shape and about 150 feet across, round which sweeps the massive outer wall of the fortress. Below the wall, a deep fosse quarried out of the solid rock completed the defences; on the north and west sides the fosse is still comparatively uninjured. On the south side of the wall was the great barbican gate, guarded by two strong towers, now much ruined; Mr. Phillips believes they were used by the Blundell family as a quarry for the building of the Elizabethan mansion, the ruins of which stand below the castle on this side. Probably at the same time, the ground on this side was levelled and laid out in terraces, and the fosse filled up.*

The sandhills of Murlough, which rise on the south side of the narrow entrance of the Inner Bay, right opposite Dundrum, are the most prolific site in County Down for pre-historic implements. Mr. W. J. Knowles writes, "I . . . obtained a large series of implements from them. The arrow-heads were numerous and beautifully worked, and the scrapers, as at other stations, were the most plentiful of all the kinds of implements. . . . . Hammer-stones and anvil-stones were abundant, and several stone axes, both rudely chipped and polished, were obtained. The usual sherds of pottery, bones, and shells were found, but not so plentiful as at other stations. The majority of the objects were procured from hollows or pits among the sandhills, but they must have dropped from the old surface, as the remnants of it were seen as black layers along the sides, and bared platforms of the old surface stood out from the steep faces of sand in

* See J. J. Phillips: *The Annals and Archæology of Dundrum Castle.* Belfast: Marcus Ward & Co. 1883.

many instances. On one occasion I happened on an old hearth, and obtained three dressed knives, some scrapers, cores, pottery, a well-marked anvil-stone, hammer-stones, and a polished stone hatchet."* An interesting earthenware bowl was found here by Rev. Leonard Hassé.† On the northern side of the entrance stand the sandhills of Ballykinler (*baile caindlera*, the town of the candlestick —so called because Ballykinler was a *luminary* to the Cathedral of Christ Church in Dublin; that is, it was appropriated to supply the altar of that church with waxlights). Mr. W. H. Patterson has recorded the occurrence of neolithic remains from here; flakes, scrapers, pottery, shells, and bones of horse, ox, red deer, pig, sheep, and dog were obtained.‡ On the shores of Dundrum Bay and the sandhills several plants find their northern limit on the east side of Ireland. Such are the Blunt-flowered Rush (*Juncus obtusiflorus*, also at Killough), Sea Purslane (*Atriplex portulacoides*), and Blue Flea-bane (*Erigeron acris*); the sandhills yield a number of other species of interest and rarity.

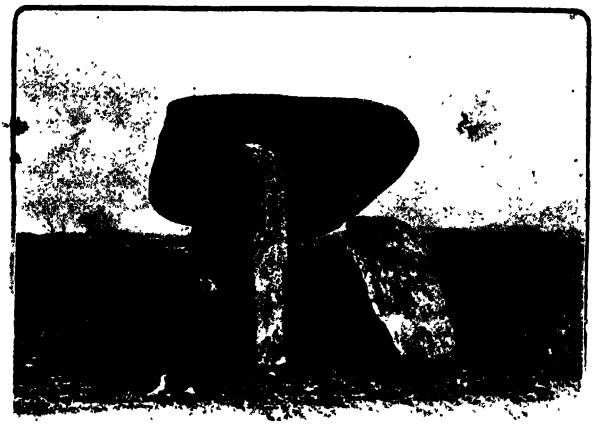
From Dundrum an excursion may be made to St. John's Point (9 miles) by crossing to the Ballykinler sand-dunes by boat or ford, and proceeding thence by road along the shores of Dundrum Bay. The graveyard adjoining Ballykinler Chapel, which lies a mile to the north of our road, occupies the site of an ancient crannog, or lake-dwelling, which stood in a lake which was drained in 1814. Bronze spears and axes were found in the crannog when it was levelled. We pass Tyrella House and church (*tech Riaghla*, the house of St. Riaghal or Regulus). In this neighbourhood, at different times, three souterrains have been discovered. They have been

* Knowles: [First] *Report on the Pre-historic Remains from the Sand-hills of the Coast of Ireland*, *Proc. R.I. Academy*, 3rd ser., vol i., no. 2, 1889.

† Hassé: *Objects from the Sandhills at Dundrum, and their Antiquity. Journ. R. Soc. Antiq. I.*, 5th ser., vol. iv., 1894.

‡ Patterson: *Notice of a Pre-historic Site at Ballykinler, Dundrum Bay, County of Down. Journ. R.S.A.I.*, 5th ser., vol. iii., 1893.

figured and described by Mr. W. Gray.* One of them, situated at Cove Hill, west of Rathmullan, has several strong stone partitions of ingenious construction built across the passage, evidently for purposes of defence. At Rathmullan (*rath muilinn*, the fort of the mill)—five miles from Dundrum—a lofty tumulus is seen. Three miles further on, at Ballyvaston (*town of Weston*, an Anglo-Irish family), about the year 1735, a heavy storm, sweeping away large quantities of sand, which destroyed a rabbit-warren, revealed a buried village, no doubt the



CROMLEAC AT SLIDDERYFORD.

village that maps and documents of the previous century showed to have flourished in the vicinity. It had evidently been overwhelmed by sand during a storm, and the very fact of its existence had been forgotten. If we keep southward round the shore of the bay at Rossglass, two miles will bring us to St. John's Point (p. 143); if we keep eastward, 1½ mile will bring us to Killough (p. 143). From Dundrum, Clough, and Seaforde (p. 153), Maghera (p. 175), and Castlewellan (p. 176) are within easy reach.

Leaving Dundrum, the railway again skirts the edge of the Inner Bay, and crosses the Carrigs River at **SLIDDERYFORD.** Here, in a field beside the road, and visible from the railway on the right-hand side, stands a fine cromleac (see illustration on previous page). The granite cap-stone, which measures 8 feet in length by the same in breadth, covers a chamber formed of three large stones—two of slate, one of granite. A lofty pillar-stone, 11 feet in height, which stands a short distance south-west of the cromleac, and a lower block beside it, appear to be the last fragments of a stone circle which is described as having stood in this vicinity.* In the field in which the cromleac is situated a souterrain also exists, but is at present closed up. It lies 90 yards south of the cromleac, and is about 60 feet long, 4 feet wide, and 6 feet high, enlarging towards the west end, and having a square recess near that extremity.

Beyond Slidderyford the railway skirts, for a couple of miles, the back of a broad range of sand-dunes, where the lovely Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*) brightens the banks with a blaze of vivid blue. Beyond the dunes a flat stretch of country extends to the wooded hills around Castlewellan. In front, the gigantic forms of Slieve Donard and Slieve Commedagh now rise close at hand. The train slows down, and we glide into the station of Newcastle (38 miles).

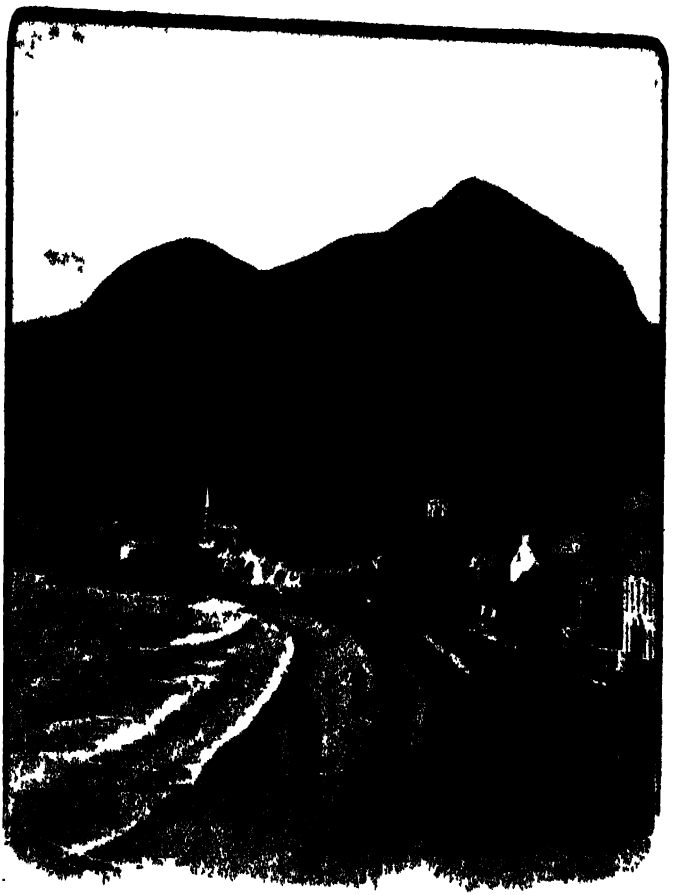
9.—NEWCASTLE.

We now reach the centre of attraction in Co. Down—Newcastle, famous for the beauty of its scenery, the invigorating purity of its air, and for the abundant opportunities which it affords for gratifying holiday tastes, whether touring by car or cycle, mountain-climbing, bathing, golfing, or sketching. The houses of the town sweep round the sandy shore of the Bay of Dundrum for

* Dubourdieu: *Statistical Survey of the County of Down*, 1802, p. 271.

more than a mile. Northward, beyond the railway station and the immense new hotel, the broad beach curves away for miles, backed by the dunes that the golfer knows so well. Westward, the lovely wooded valley of the Shimna River (*simhne*, the river of *Bulrushes*) runs up through tree-clad hills past Bryansford and the famous park of Tollymore. Southward, the mountains tower in all their grandeur, the houses of the southern end of the town being actually built on the steep slope of Slieve Donard. Near the middle of the long straggling line of villas that front the sea, the granite spire of the parish church, built on a rocky knoll, stands up effectively; and between the main street and the tide a strip of green sward, planted with trees and laid out with walks, forms an agreeable promenade. The waters of a chalybeate spa on the hill above have been brought into the village by a pipe, and may be sampled at a quaint grotto near the church. From the mountain-side south of the town, Donard Lodge, a far-famed beauty-spot, looks down over sea and land from its fragrant pine woods.

Newcastle, as it exists to-day, is of modern origin. In the turbulent times which lasted through so many centuries, the beauty of the scenery and salubrity of the air called to men in vain. The fastnesses of the mountains formed, no doubt, a safe refuge for the outlaw, a secure eyrie whence bands of marauders could descend on the rich lands of Lecale; and to protect their property the powerful Magennis family erected a stronghold at Newcastle, selecting for its site the point where the Shimna River debouches into the sea, and the Annesley Arms Hotel now stands. Felix Magennis, who built the castle in 1588, appears to have selected the site of an older structure, as mention is made in the *Annals of the Four Masters* of a castle here as early as 1433. Like so many of the ancient fortresses, the site was chosen so as to command a ford—the ford afterwards known as *fearsat na chaislein nui*, the ford of the new castle—which



NEWCASTLE AND SLIEVE DONARD

crossed the mouth of the Shimna River, where now the broad new bridge stands. In those times Newcastle was known as Ballaghbeg (*bealach beg*, the little road), and the townland in which it stands is still so called. The castle which gave its name to the town exists no longer; it was removed about 60 years ago to make room for the hotel. The present (1891) population of Newcastle is returned as 898.



NEWCASTLE IN THE LAST CENTURY, SHOWING THE MAGENNIS CASTLE.
(From an old picture.)

BATHING is naturally one of the leading attractions of Newcastle. For ladies, good accommodation is provided at the Black Rock, below the church. The men mostly bathe south of the harbour, where deep water is obtainable. The harbour was improved at a cost of £30,000 about fifty years ago; but a heavy gale in 1874 demolished the breakwater on the east side. Small vessels can lie alongside the old pier, but the want of suitable accommodation interferes with boating as a recreation. The County Council and the Government have recently provided funds for the reconstruction of the harbour, and it is hoped this will be undertaken at an early date.

SKETCHING.—The proximity of a range of mountains always ensures good cloud effects for the artist, and the Mourne Mountains are no exception to the rule. Visitors wishing for a general view of the range can easily go to Dundrum, Castlewellan, Annalong, or on the numerous country roads for a day's work, but Newcastle itself offers plenty of less ambitious subjects. Its golf-links and sunny strand will tempt some, whilst others will prefer the tumbling river at Donard Lodge, with its picturesque sudden peeps of water through pine-trees overhanging great grey rocks, or woodland studies in more remote recesses of the demesne. Clambering above the waterfall towards Thomas Mountain, the heathery uplands whence the foaming river rushes downwards will furnish splendid studies of colour. A pleasant walk southwards towards Bloody Bridge will give fine rock studies along the shore, with the additional attraction of obtaining a lift back to Newcastle on the long car from Rostrevor. The fine Annalong valley would make a good day's excursion, going and returning by the public car and walking up the couple of miles that lead from the shore into that lovely glen, the homeward journey being probably glorified by the wonderful golden twilight that seems so often to occur in mountain districts bordering on the sea.

TROUT-FISHING in the streams that drain the mountain area is not good, on account of the poor feeding afforded by the bare granite beds over which they flow. Thus the rivers of Shimna, Annalong, Kilkeel, Ghann, and Kilbroney yield Brown Trout so small as to be hardly worth the catching. The White Water is better, and the lower reaches yield plenty of small but game fish; permission is required for the portion of the stream lying in Mourne Park. Fine White Trout are caught in the Shimna and Kilkeel Rivers and in the White Water, the second being the best of those three streams: a flood just before the close



GOLF AT NEWCASTLE.
Welch's Irish Views.

of the season is the most propitious time. The stream in Tollymore Park is preserved. The Moneycaragh River, which flows into Dundrum Bay a couple of miles north of Newcastle, affords plenty of small Brown Trout, with an occasional good one. Early and late in the season, White Trout up to 2lb. haunt the stream in some numbers. The dam close to Dundrum contains plenty of fish, running about ¾lb. Annsborough Lake, lying north of Castlewellan, is full of Brown Trout of ½lb. to ¾lb. Leave to fish here is generously given on application to the proprietor. The fishing about Hilltown is referred to under the head of "CO. DOWN.—FISHING" (p. 12).



PUTTING AT THE "PRIEST'S HOLE," NEWCASTLE.

GOLF is perhaps the attraction that now most draws visitors from a distance to Newcastle. The sand-dunes that stretch from the railway station northward for several miles are an ideal place for this ancient game, and the County Down Golf Club have made their headquarters here. Their handsome and commodious club-house stands within 200 yards of the new hotel. It has been just built and furnished at a cost of £3,000, and is far and away the best in Ireland. The building contains fine dressing and



SLIEVE DONARD HOTEL, NEWCASTLE, CO. DOWN.

drying-rooms, also needle, douche, and plunge baths on the ground floor. On the first floor commanding views of sea and mountain are obtained from the beautiful dining-room, clubroom, hall, and bar lounge. The club-house looks on the first tee and eighteenth green of the magnificent 18-hole course, probably the most sporting in the United Kingdom. It has splendid greens and good turf. There is also a very fair ladies' course of 9 holes. The terms for visitors who are members of any golf club (giving use of club-house and green) are 2/6 per day, 10/- per week, 15/- per fortnight, £1 per month. Players who are not members of any golf club may play on the ladies' course for 1/- per day, or on the long course at the ordinary tariff, if accompanied by a member of the County Down Golf Club.

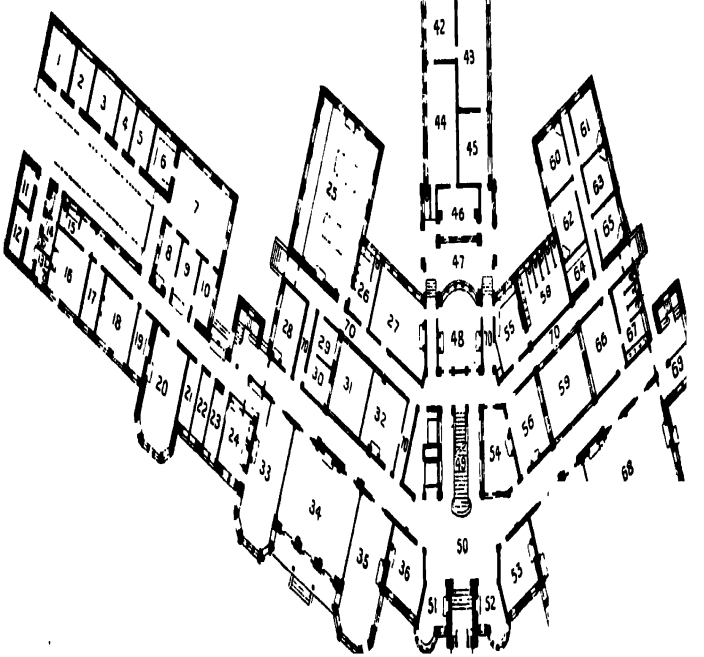
HOTELS.—Immediately adjoining the Railway Station, situated in its own tastefully laid-out grounds of about 12 acres bordering on the beach, is the Slieve Donard Hotel, erected and managed by the Railway Company. The site has been admirably selected, with a southern aspect, and the building is so designed that perfect views may be had from all the public rooms and principal bedrooms of both sides of the magnificent bay and the lofty mountain range by which it is bounded, while from the less important rooms equally beautiful views may be had of the surrounding country, including the picturesque demesnes of Castlewellan Park and Tollymore Park. The Hotel contains about 120 bedrooms, with sitting-rooms and bedrooms *en suite*. A splendid entrance hall with luxurious lounges leads to the staircase and main corridors. The public rooms are all on the ground floor, and consist of drawing-room, grand coffee room, reading and writing room, smoking room, billiard room, hair-dressing rooms, &c. A very fine suite of baths for ladies and gentlemen forms one of the most attractive features of the establishment: these consist of fresh and salt water baths.

1 Coal Cellar
2 Knives and Boots
3 Dairy
4 Vegetables
5 Cold Larder
6 Larder
7 Kitchen
8 Chef's Room
9 Serving Room
10 Washing Scullery
11 Wood
12 Tool House
13 Lavatory
14 Do.
15 Do.
16 Female Servants' Hall
17 Drying Room
18 Men Servants' Hall

19 Butler
20 Housekeeper, &c.
21 China
22 Plate
23 Fruit and Flowers
24 Still Room
25 Billiard Room
26 Billiard Lavatory
27 Smoking Room
28 Day Cellar
29 Gent's Hair Dressing
30 Ladies' do
31 Open Court
32 Steward
33 }
34 } Coffee Room
35 }
36 Sitting Room

37 Boiler House
38 Accumulators
39 Coal Cellar
40 Workshop
41 Engine and Dynamos
42 Drying Closet
43 Wash House
44 Laundry
45 Receiving Room
46 Delivery do.
47 Open Court
48 Refreshment Bar
49 Grand Staircase
50 Entrance Hall
51 Alcove
52 Do.
53 Sitting Room
54 Office

55 Gentlemen's Lavatory
56 Manager's Room
57 Reading Room
58 Gentlemen's Lavatory
59 Open Court
60 Bed Room
61 Do.
62 Do
63 Do.
64 Linen Room
65 Bed Room
66 Ladies' Cloak Room
67 Ladies' Lavatory
68 Drawing Room
69 Fernery
70 Corridors



needle, douche, spray, shower, and Turkish baths. A model laundry is attached to the establishment, fitted with the most modern appliances. The kitchen is perfect in detail, being supplied with the latest and most improved apparatus. Electrically lighted throughout, with lifts to all floors, and perfect sanitation, the Hotel will be found to combine the most homely comforts with delightful scenery and surroundings.

Two other good Hotels occupy conspicuous sites in the town—the Annesley Arms and the Bellevue.

One of the principal attractions of Newcastle is the proximity of three demesnes, all of which are of quite exceptional beauty. **DONARD LODGE**, the property of the Earl of Annesley (open to the public on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday), is situated on the slopes that descend from Slieve Donard to the southern end of the town. The house, a plain roomy mansion, commands a lovely view northward across Co. Down, and stands in grounds laid out with lawns and rare shrubs. In front, rich pastures dotted with trees extend to the plain below. Behind, and to the right and left, rise the dark pine woods, crest beyond crest. The Glen River, which rises in the deep valley between Slieve Donard and Slieve Commedagh, comes foaming down the mountain-side in a continuous series of beautiful cascades. Its banks have been planted with rhododendrons and pines, bridges have been thrown across the torrent, and seats set to command the prettiest views; and this place is deservedly one of the favourite spots in the county. Fanciful names have been bestowed on the cascades, &c., and the place itself is called the Hermit's Glen, apparently out of compliment to St Domangard. Visitors who prefer nature unadorned by art need only push further up the hill, where, amid a wild tangle of Gorse, Heather, Bog Myrtle, and pines, the stream leaps over rugged ledges of slaty rock, or lies darkling in deep pools where the polished banded grit shows like green marble through the clear water. In

every direction lovely walks extend among the fern-filled pine woods, and through the trees we get exquisite peeps of the fertile plain below, and the blue sea, and the broad curve of the sandy shore. A hundred and fifty years ago Walter Harris quaintly described the beauties of this spot: "This Stream and many others conspire in their Descent to form a River, which, running through a Channel of White Stone of 10,000 different Breaks and Windings, makes in Summer a Prospect of Waterfalls, Cascades, Jetd'eaus, Ponds, &c., the most various and delightful; but in Winter or Autumn Floods the Roar and Impetuosity of this Fall is greatly terrible."

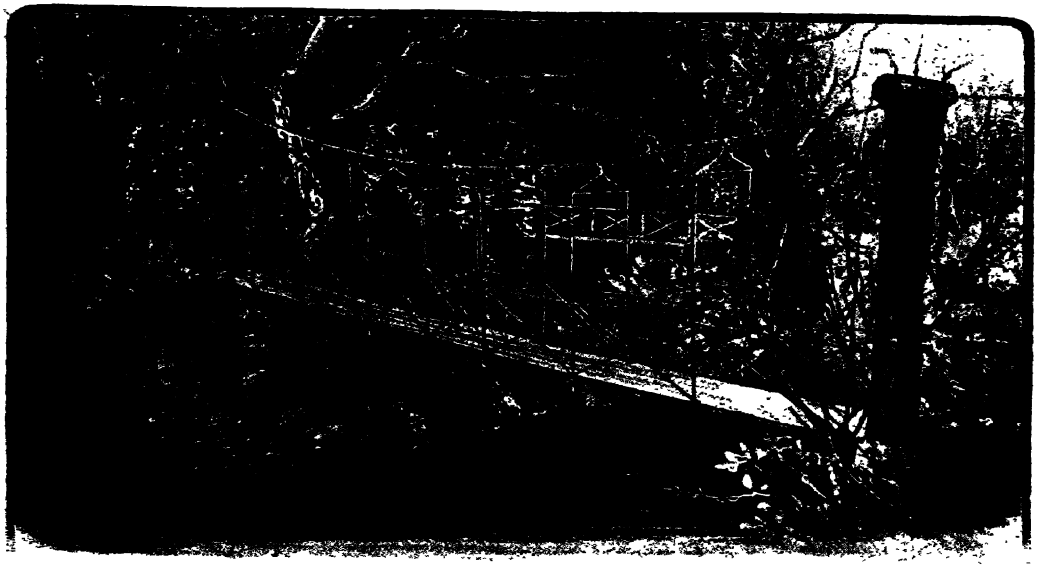


BRYANSFORD.

TOLLYMORE PARK (*tulach mór*, big hillock), the seat of the Earl of Roden (open to the public on Tuesday and Friday), another demesne of far-famed beauty, lies two miles up the valley of the Shimna River. To reach it we turn inland along the Bryansford road. The road runs through a richly-wooded country, past an old rath which has been considerably tampered with, and, ascend-

big, gives us a lovely view up the wooded valley, with Tollymore Park House on the right and the bold fir-clad eminence of Curraghárd *(the high marsh)* on the left, and the huge brown flanks of the higher hills towering behind it. Further on we pass the Barbican Gate—one of the approaches to Tollymore Park, but not a public entrance—a handsome arched gateway approached by a double row of Limes. Two miles from Newcastle we turn to the left, and a quarter of a mile further on pass through the beautiful little village of Bryansford. Every house is smothered in flowers and creepers, among which the scarlet *Tropæolum* blazes in wonderful profusion. Opposite the pretty inn (Roden Arms), a walk lined with ancient trees affords a lovely prospect of the valley and mountains, with Newcastle and the Irish sea beyond. The Gothic gateway which forms the principal entrance to Tollymore Park stands at the upper and further end of the village street. The great charm of the demesne lies in the Shimna River and its surroundings. Here is a deep dark pool, overshadowed by high rocky banks, hung with ferns and hawkweeds. There, a waterfall plunges over a ledge of precipitous rocks. Here, the stream meanders among great boulders fringed and crowned with brilliant moss; there, huge Pines and Oaks and Beeches cast dark shadows on the rippling water. There are picturesque bridges swung across deep chasms, and romantic grottoes; and everywhere there is a verdure and a wealth of vegetation that is truly delightful. From the coolness and shade of the stream-side, avenues lead away through the woods, and high up the steep slopes above, whence we see the whole park spread like a map beneath us. The last of the three demesnes to which we have referred is Castlewellan Park, which will be mentioned under the head of CASTLEWELLAN (p. 176).

From Newcastle, profitable excursions may be made to Maghera and to Castlewellan, which lie between Dundrum and the great mountain-barrier, and we may conveniently



HERMITAGE BRIDGE, TOLLYMORE PARK.
Welch's Irish Views.

visit these places before entering on our survey of the "Kingdom of Mourne."

MAGHERA

is a little hamlet on the flat ground that extends inwards from the sand-dunes, lying 2½ miles north of Newcastle. It is manifestly a site of great antiquity. The earliest remains are those of a fine rath, standing on the bank of the Carrigs river. From this ancient fort the place took its name, *Rath murbhuilg*, the fort of the sea-inlet (*i.e.*, of the Inner Bay of Dundrum). It is often referred to in the early records simply as *Rath*. Thus an ancient "Rotulus de Prestito, 12 Johan." informs us that on 14th July, 1210, King John was at Rath. The latter part of the name, *Murbuilg*, is still preserved in a corrupted form in *Murlough*, the name of an adjoining townland. The modern name Maghera, more properly Magherara (*mach-aire-ratha*), is also commemorative of the ancient dun, signifying the plain of the fort. In or near the rath St. Domangard or Donard, from whom the "Monarch of Mourne" takes its name, founded a church in the 6th century. There now remain, inside the circumvallation of the rath, the ruins of one of the churches that succeeded it. The high-pitched west gable stands nearly intact, and also the north wall, overgrown with ivy of very great age; of the other walls the foundations only are left. The interior of the church is filled with old Elder-trees, the trunk of one of them measuring six feet in circumference. The graveyard fills the space inside the rath; it contains the crumbling remains of a small building about 11 feet by 9 feet internally, apparently of great antiquity, and some curious early grave-slabs. The modest little modern church adjoins the rath on the west side, its square white tower rising over the ancient ruins. About a hundred yards to the north-west of it stands the stump of a round tower. Harris states that the tower was blown down in a violent gale about the year 1714, "and lay at length and

entire on the ground, like a huge gun, without breaking to pieces; so wonderfully hard and binding was the cement of this work." The stump that now remains is 18 feet in height and 8 feet in internal diameter, with walls 2½ feet thick. It has the elevated doorway so characteristic of buildings of this class.

CASTLEWELLAN

(*Castle-Mhaolain*, Maolan's or Millan's castle) stands conspicuously on a ridge two miles north-west of Maghera



IN CASTLEWELLAN PARK

and four miles north-west of Newcastle, and from its commanding site looks down on the plain that stretches from the fortress-crowned knoll of Dundrum to the Mourne Mountains. From every point Castlewellan is marked by its two tall spires of granite, rising one at each end of the long street. That on the west belongs to the Roman Catholic church, that on the east to the parish church; both of these are ample buildings of consider-

able architectural beauty. For the rest, the one broad street of which the town consists is pleasantly broken by two "squares" of irregular shape, each containing a market-house, and planted with trees. The population is 895 persons. A service of cars, in connection with the trains on the B. and C. D. Railway, runs between Castlewellan and Newcastle. North-east of the town, in the valley of the Ballybannan River, lies Annsborough and the extensive linen factory of Messrs. Murland, which gives employment to over 1,000 hands. To the north and west rise pretty rocky hills and extensive woods. On this side is situated the Earl of Annesley's beautiful demesne (open to the public on Mondays), in which lies Castlewellan Lake, a mile in length. The grounds are famous for their wealth of rare trees and shrubs, which are cultivated here with remarkable success. If we leave Castlewellan by the Rathfriland road, which runs south-west, we pass, two miles out, the little lake of Altnadua (*alt-na-dtuath*, the cliff or glen-side of the battle-axes), which is delightfully situated at the base of a rocky pine-clad hill. The country all around this little lake is remarkably rich in cashels, or stone forts; but most of them are unfortunately much dilapidated, and some almost entirely destroyed. One of the best will be seen on the right-hand side of the road which turns to the left half-a-mile beyond Altnadua. The fort is circular, and about 100 feet in diameter. The wall as it now exists is 10 feet in height and 6 feet in thickness, strongly built of field-stones without mortar. Inside the enclosure is a souterrain, or artificial cave. In runs 12 yards in a straight line and then turns at right angles and continues for 6 yards more, widening from 3 feet into a pear-shaped terminal chamber 6 feet broad. The portion at the angle has fallen in, but the two ends may be entered through holes in the roof. A similar cashel with souterrain is mapped half-a-mile east-north-east of the one described, and yet another close to a large standing-stone 1½ mile

due north of Castlewellan. Lough Island Reavy is a lake over a mile in length, partly natural, partly artificial, lying among the hills 2½ miles south-west of Castlewellan. It is used as a reservoir by the linen manufacturers and bleachers along the River Bann, which passes a few miles to the westward.

10.—NEWCASTLE TO KILKEEL, ROSTREVOR, AND WARRENPOINT.

BEFORE venturing into the fastnesses of the Mournes, it will be well to skirt round the edge of the high grounds, and visit the places that must act as the base of operations of our excursions. Many tourists, unaccustomed to the arduous walking which is necessarily associated with the exploration of the mountains, will be content with visiting the lovely and interesting spots that lie along their outskirts; and to these the regular tourist-coach service that girdles the mountain-chain will prove a great convenience. The tourist coaches run three times daily to and from Rostrevor, Warrenpoint, and Greencastle (connecting therewith the London and North-Western Railway steamer for Greenore, see p. 185), by the coach road, *via* Annalong and Kilkeel. Circular tickets, available by these and for return by the Great Northern Railway, are issued at Belfast at low rates during the tourist season; and as they are available for break of journey at Newcastle, Kilkeel, Rostrevor, and Warrenpoint, no better way of seeing the district can be suggested than by these. The coaches of Norton & Co.'s car service run between Newcastle and Warrenpoint four times daily in the tourist season, commencing 1st June, with additional services through the mountains, as may be desired by tourists wishing to explore the fastnesses of the Mourne range. The coast road is full of variety; the contour of the mountains ever changing; while the additional attractions of the sea and the numerous

indentations made by it along the coast, render it by far the more popular and interesting journey. The tour is availed of very largely by day passengers from Belfast, who make a circular tour, returning *via* Warrenpoint and the Great Northern Railway.

Leaving Newcastle for Annalong and Kilkeel, and the country to the south of the Mournes, we pass southward along the steep slopes where the great shoulders of Slieve Donard descend into the sea. Above us are the pine woods of Donard Lodge; below, the sea has eaten into the baked Ordovician grits, and low cliffs hung with maritime plants are tunnelled here and there by picturesque caves. Several of these have local names—Donard's Cave, popularly supposed to run in right under the summit of the mountain; and Armor's Hole, which tradition associates with the murder of one James Armor nearly two centuries ago. Maggie's Leap is a deep narrow chasm, across which a fair maid on her way to market is said to have safely jumped, in order to escape the importunities of a suitor, without breaking one of the basketful of eggs with which she was burdened. Once clear of the woods, we see above us on the right the towering form of Slieve Donard, rising behind several shoulders which, from this point of view, seem as lofty as itself; but as a matter of fact, the summit rises more than a thousand feet above them. As the road bends southward, Chimney Rock Mountain comes into view, a long ridge-like summit crowned with the peculiar weathered torrs of granite which give it its name. Two and a quarter miles from Newcastle we pass Bloody Bridge, which derives its gruesome title from the massacre of a number of Protestants of Newry, including their minister, in the troubled year 1641, at the instigation of Sir Conn Magennis. The old bridge, picturesquely wreathed in ivy, stands a short distance above the present one. Under it foams a glorious torrent, which comes down the wild valley that separates Slieve Donard from Chimney

Rock. This glen is one of the most picturesque "bits" in the district. Huge blocks of grey granite lie scattered among the rough brown heather. Bog Myrtle and Gorse add their perfume to that of the Heath, and the river tumbles downwards in a series of cascades and deep green pools. Just beyond Bloody Bridge, on the left-hand side of the road, stand the ruins of the ancient church of Ballaghanery (*bealach-an-aodhaire*, the pass of the shepherd), now called St. Mary's, a building of very great antiquity, concerning which but little is known. It was one of several chapels attached to the rectory of Kilkeel. The circular chancel-arch is the only portion of the edifice which now stands. The foundations of a nave and chancel of small size have been traced. The little graveyard which surrounds the ancient "Capella de Balloch-enevry" (as it is called in the *Terrier* of 1615) is still occasionally used for the interment of unbaptised children, or of some friendless wanderer; otherwise the crumbling ruin, rising between the mountain and the sea, stands deserted and forgotten.* As we proceed on our way, the grand form of Slieve Bingian (*sliabh binneann*, the mountain of the sharp peak) slowly opens out from behind Spence's Mountain, till at length it stands clear, with rock-crowned peaks towering dark against the sky. The road has now left the sea-line, and runs through the fertile slope that extends from the mountain to the coast. **ANNALONG** (*ath-na-long*, the ford of the ships)—7 miles—is a straggling village of 225 inhabitants, with a small harbour where dressed granite is shipped in considerable quantity. Through it the Annalong River, which rises on Slieve Donard and runs southward through a grand mountain-valley, flows to the sea. Beyond the village, a fine panorama opens out of the mountains which surround the basin of the Annalong River—Slieve Bingian rising gloriously on the left, the green dome of Slieve Donard occupying

*See Reeves: *The Ancient Church of Ballagh-a-neir*, in Down and Connor and Dromore Church Architecture Society's *Papers* for 1844; Belfast, 1845.

the centre, and Chimney Rock flanking the view on the right. At Ballymartin (9½ miles) we ascend a long hill, with the sea below us on the left, and see the low point of Leestone running out into the water; while on the right, fresh mountains keep opening out as we advance westward. Now we see Pigeon Rock Mountain, Slieve Maganmore, and Eagle Mountain rising in the centre of the range. To the westward, Knockchree rises over the woods of Mourne Park; and beyond it, the grassy pointed summit of Knockshee, which impends over Carlingford Lough, looks across at the black ridge of Carlingford Mountain. Further to the left, the long low coast-line of Co. Louth stretches southward. Next we cross the Kilkeel River, a fine stream that flows in its upper reaches through the best scenery in the Mournes, and here meanders down a flat valley that it has cut 30 to 40 feet deep in the glacial deposits. At 12½ miles we enter the tidy town of **KILKEEL** (*cill caol*, narrow church). This is a thriving little place (pop. 1,367) with a harbour (recently improved at a cost of about £20,000) much frequented by fishing smacks, and with an export trade of granite. A fine fleet of fishing-boats is owned locally, and boats from many parts of the three kingdoms are also to be found here. The beach, which extends for miles on either hand, is of shingle and sand, derived from the great deposit of glacial *débris* that covers the land south of the mountains, and along the shore stands up a solid cliff 30 to 40 feet in height. Important markets are held at Kilkeel, and, especially during the herring season, large quantities of fish are landed and despatched *via* Greenore to England. There are two hotels in the town. The antiquities of Kilkeel consist of a fine cromleac, and an old church till recently used as a parochial school. The church is built inside an earthen rath. Until quite recently, corpses, before interment, were carried three times round the rampart—no doubt a custom of great antiquity. In the graveyard there is a rude granite cross of early pattern. The cromleac is

reached by taking the main street as far as the eastern end of the town, and turning to the left up a private road. It is locally known as the "Crawtree Stone," and stands in the fence on the left-hand side. The cap-stone is a rounded granite block, measuring about 10 × 8 × 4 feet, and it rests on four other blocks of granite.

From Kilkeel three roads invite exploration. That which runs straight on in the direction in which we have been travelling will lead us to Cranfield Point, the southern extremity of the county, and to the old stronghold of Greencastle, both at the entrance of Carlingford Lough. The two other roads turn sharp to the right out of the main street. That which we meet first, which runs northward, leads us through the Mourne Mountains to Hilltown—the only highway which crosses the range. This beautiful road we will traverse later on. The third road runs north-west, and is the coach route to Rostrevor and Warrenpoint. This we will follow, making a detour on the way in order to visit Greencastle. On leaving Kilkeel, the first noteworthy object is the fine Roman Catholic church, which stands a mile from the town close to the site of the "Mass Fort," a rath where service used to be performed in the open air during the days of the Catholic proscription. In a field on the south-eastern side of the church is situated one of the finest kistvaens or "giant's graves" in the county. This monument consists of two parallel rows of stones, placed a few feet apart; the west end is closed by a great slab set on edge. The largest stone stands 7 feet high; the structure is 40 feet in length. The slabs which no doubt originally covered the chamber have disappeared. We now turn southward along a by-road, and in passing visit Dunnaval (*dun-na-bhfál*, the fort of the walls or hedges), a large circular earthen fort well placed on a low hill behind Ballyardle post office. It has a double rampart, the outer 10 feet, the inner 18 feet high, and commands an extensive view of the fertile plain around, and of the sea and mountains. Thence we

keep on southward, and turning westward (right) beyond the rectory, we traverse the flat ground that fringes, on both sides, the entrance to the Bay of Carlingford, and reach Greencastle (5 miles from Kilkeel by direct road, 6 miles as we have come).

GREENCASTLE

was formerly a place of much importance, as being one of the principal strongholds of the English in Co. Down. Long before the Anglo-Norman invasion, this sea-girt point had been selected as the last resting-place of some Irish chieftain, and his green burial-mound rises conspicuously on the edge of the sea. The military instinct of the Anglo-Normans recognised the natural advantages of the site, guarding as it does the entrance of Carlingford Lough on the one side, and the rich lands south of the Mournes on the other; and on a boss of Ordovician rock they erected a castle of great strength in the 13th century. Four or five hundred years later, a church was built between the fortress and the sea. This, like the castle, is now in ruins, and the present occupants of Greencastle are a farmer who lives in an old house which nestles among the castle ruins, and a body of coastguards who dwell on the edge of the water, and daily hoist their flag on the summit of the green tumulus, which is called *Knock Tinnel* (*Cnoc-tennail*, the mound of the bonfire or beacon). The importance of the fortress of Greencastle is shown by the frequency with which its name occurs in the early *State Papers* and other Government documents. The De Burgos, Earls of Ulster, held the castle for the English during the early part of the 14th century, and we read that Jean de Burgo was here married to Thomas, second Earl of Kildare, 1312. Three years later, Edward Bruce swept the English clear out of the district, and Greencastle was for a while in possession of the Irish.

In 1343, the "Irish felons" stormed the castle and dismantled it, but it was again fortified. In 1405, the governor had his pay largely increased, on condition of his keeping in repair the castles of both Greencastle and Carlingford. In 1495, it was decreed that none but Englishmen should be entrusted with the governorship. In the 16th century, the castle passed, with the surrounding lands, into the hands of the Bagnalls. Later on, this family used the place as a favourite residence. The



GREENCASTLE.

great rectangular keep, 70 feet by 40 feet, with a square tower of slight projection at each angle, still stands almost uninjured, and from its summit, approached by a winding stair in the south-west turret, a grand view is obtained of the lough, town, and mountains of Carlingford, the islands and lighthouses that guard the entrance of the bay, the low Louth coast, with the packet station of Greenore just opposite; and, inland, the Mourne Mountains rising beyond the cultivated grounds of

Kilkeel and the sands of Mill Bay. The basement story is vaulted, and the heavy masonry arches form a solid floor for the great hall above; the upper floors, having been probably of timber, have fallen in. The stone gutter of the roof forms a broad ledge, where, no doubt, in old days steel-clad sentinels clanked to and fro. Around the keep are the ruins of strong outworks, and on the west side stands a house of considerable age, still occupied as a dwelling—no doubt originally a residential portion of the castle. The fortress is built on a knoll of Ordovician grit, but the Carboniferous limestone is seen on the shore close at hand, traversed by basaltic dykes, and overlaid by compact blue Boulder Clay and by a raised beach containing recent shells. Between the castle and the tumulus stand the ruins of Greencastle church; the walls and west gable remain, the latter surmounted by a small belfry. This church is not mentioned in the *Terrier* of 1615, nor in the return of the Sees of Down and Connor in 1622, so its foundation appears to be of comparatively modern date. Close by the coastguard station, a strong wooden jetty receives the steam ferry-boat which plies to and from Greenore, the packet station on the opposite side of the entrance of the lough. On the County Down side, this ferry is connected with Kilkeel and the tourist coach route, by cars running three times daily each way. From Greenore, train services connect with Dublin *via* Dundalk, and with Belfast *via* Newry. A daily fast passenger service with London *via* Holyhead is carried on by the fine steamers of the London and North-Western Company. The channel is guarded by a lofty white lighthouse on Haulbowline Rock, which shows a white light 104 feet above the water, visible for 15 miles; and by two smaller lights placed on screw-piles, and looking like a pair of gigantic spiders.

From Greencastle our road lies round the edge of Mill Bay, crossing by a stone bridge the White Water,

a mountain stream that rises between Pigeon Rock and Slieve Muck, close to the source of the Bann. We rejoin the main road at Lisnacree (*lis-na-croidhe*, the fort of the cattle). The rath from which presumably the place derives its name lies a quarter of a mile northward. By making the detour to Greencastle we have missed **MOURNE PARK**, the beautiful seat of the Earl of Kilmorey. The White Water, flowing through the woods of the demesne, and fringed with ferns and mosses, furnishing scenery as beautiful as the famous Shimna River in Tollymore Park. At the upper end of the park, Knockchree (*cnoc croidhe*, the hill of the cattle), 1,013 feet, an isolated rounded eminence, rises, clothed with woods almost to its summit. It is crowned with an observatory, erected by the late earl.

Proceeding on our way, we pause at Causeway Water bridge to admire the fine view up the glen, where the Causeway Water comes down from the mountains, with the bare cone of Knockshee (1,144 feet) rising boldly on the left-hand side. A cromleac with a massive cap-stone stands not far away. It is approached by a lane that runs up the north bank of the river; about one-third of a mile up this lane, the cromleac will be sighted standing in a field on the left-hand side. It consists of a large rounded mass of granite, estimated to weigh 30 tons, supported on several upright granite blocks. An accumulation of field-stones from the surrounding land has almost filled the chamber. Two miles further along the road, close to the new chapel of Killowen, stands the old chapel, now disused and falling into decay. It is celebrated in local annals as the scene of the romantic Yelverton marriage in 1861. "During the Crimean War, the Hon. Major Yelverton, Protestant, heir to the peerage of Avonmore, met Miss Longworth, a Roman Catholic of aristocratic family, who was nursing

the wounded in the hospital at Galata. A close intimacy sprang up which eventually ripened into love, and a secret marriage being proposed, the lady at length gave her consent to the arrangement. The happy couple met at Waterford, and journeyed north as far as Rostrevor, where they remained overnight at Sanxter's Hotel. In the early morning they rowed down the lough to Killowen, and, having landed, they took a path (since known as the Yelverton Walk) leading up from the shore to the old chapel, where they were married by the parish priest, Father Mooney."* The marriage, unfortunately, did not turn out happily, and some years after Major Yelverton contracted a second marriage. This resulted in a *cause célèbre* which was eventually carried to the House of Lords, owing to the complex points of law relating to mixed marriages. The first marriage was eventually declared invalid. We next pass on the left the woods and lawns of Ballyedmond. Inside the grounds, close to the road at the Killowen end, is a kistvaen, or giant's grave, in a rather ruined condition. The road now runs along the hill-slope, and commands glorious views of the lough and Carlingford Mountains on the left and the Mourne Mountains on the right. Spelga (*speilgeach*, the place of pointed rocks)—1,298 feet—appears on our right front, its flanks dark with pine woods, and beyond it the humpy profile of Ballynagelty (*baile-na-ngealtaigh*, the town of the madmen)—1,297 feet—rising far above the sickle-shaped gravel-spit and whitewashed hamlet of Killowen (*cill Eoin*, [St.] John's Church) built on a raised beach. The present Lord Chief Justice of England spent some years of his boyhood here, at Seafield, which his father owned. When raised to the peerage, he selected the title of Lord Russell of Killowen, after the beautiful spot through which we are passing. He was born at Newry in 1833, and subsequently served his time there in an attorney's office. Now the

* Jones's *Guide to the Carlingford Lough District*.

upper portion of the lough opens out as the road bends northward. We see Warrenpoint, with its terraces facing the sea, its church spire, and the hills that line the Armagh side as far north as Newry. More to the right the massive Ross-of-Bladensburg obelisk rises, its grey granite contrasting strongly with the foliage of the trees behind it. Our road now plunges abruptly into a wood which clothes the mountain-side from here to Rostrevor, a distance of a mile. The trees arch across



IN THE FAIRY GLEN, NEAR ROSTREVOR

the highway, and down on the beach below their branches overhang the sea. Above, the wood extends to an elevation of about 1,000 feet, where it ends in a tangle of low stunted Oaks. In springtime the primroses carpet these woods in marvellous profusion. We emerge from the wood at Rostrevor Quay, where are situated the large Great Northern Hotel and the Woodside Hotel, which look out across the water, with the little harbour in front. This is the terminus of the tramway that runs to

Warrenpoint. Behind the hotel, a large quarry has been opened in a great dyke of uralitic diabase, a handsome rock locally called green granite. Keeping to the right, a half-mile past villas and great trees and across the Kilbroney River brings us to the pretty village of

ROSTREVOR.

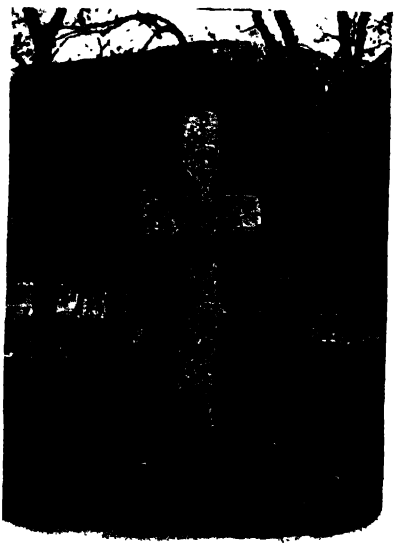
In the wide square, shady trees spread their boughs. At the upper end are the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches, one on each side of the road that leads



THE OLD AND THE NEW -PRIMITIVE "LOW-BACKED CAR" AT ROSTREVOR.

to Hilltown and Newcastle. At the opposite end of the square the broad road to Warrenpoint drops down the hill. On every side is a wealth of foliage, and above all the wooded mountains tower, shutting out the cold winds, making Rostrevor a veritable garden, and conducing to the mildness for which it is famous. At the same time

the place enjoys all the advantages of a seaside resort, having good bathing and plenty of boating. Rory Magennis built a castle here at the time when his powerful family were paramount in Co. Down. It appears to have been situated in the centre of the present village, and from it the place was called Castle Rory. The present name is said to have been bestowed by Sir Marmaduke Whitchurch to commemorate the marriage



OLD CROSS IN KILBRONEY CHURCHYARD.

of his daughter *Rose* with Edward *Trevor*, Viscount Dungannon, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The population of Rostrevor is 660. The old graveyard in the village contains a handsome stone cross, designed by the late Hon. Mrs. Ross of Bladensburg. If we take the road which passes the parish church, a mile will bring us to the ancient church and

graveyard of Kilbroney (*cill Bronaigh*, the church of St. Bronach). The church ruins consist of a nave and chancel smothered in ivy. In the south-east corner of the graveyard stands a fine early cross of granite, set in a large roughly-squared block of the same rock. Another cross of a curiously grotesque character will be seen close by with a human face in its upper part. To the west is the ancient well of St. Brigid, which possesses chalybeate properties, and was formerly held in great esteem. A very interesting ancient Celtic bronze bell, which was



CARLINGFORD LOUGH, FROM NEAR CLOUGHMORE.

found in a hollow wall destroyed by the fall, during a storm, of a large tree that grew beside the ruin, is preserved on the altar of the Roman Catholic church. In the graveyard lie the remains of the "Irish giant," Patrick Murphy. He was born in a cottage that stands by the roadside near the Causeway Water, and was a handsome and well-proportioned man of 8 ft. 1 in. The path to Cloughmore (*cloch mór*, the big stone), a celebrated erratic block of granite, of about 30 tons weight, that stands on a shoulder of the mountain overlooking Rostrevor at an elevation of 957 feet, turns off to the left up the mountain just beyond the rink,

which stands near the quay. The path zigzags through the wood, and, emerging on the open hillside, passes the Shepherd's Hut, and reaches the great boulder that the champion Finn MacCoul threw across the lough from Carlingford Mountain. Geologists prefer to attribute its present position to the action of ice during the Glacial Period. The composition of the stone proves that it came from the northward, from the neighbourhood of Newry; the glacial striæ in the neighbourhood show that there was a general ice-flow from this direction. From Cloughmore the walk may with advantage be continued to some of the higher points which lie behind; everywhere, beautiful views of the lough and the rich country below will reward the pedestrian.

From Rostrevor a frequent service of tramcars runs to Warrenpoint, whence a branch line connects at Goraghwood with the main line of the Great Northern Railway. Our own route from Rostrevor lies inland through the mountains to Hilltown and Newcastle, but a brief detour may be made to visit the important watering-place of Warrenpoint, distant 2½ miles. The road lies for the most part along the edge of the lough. We pass the imposing obelisk erected to the memory of Major-General Robert Ross, one of the most famous of Irish soldiers.

He was born in 1766, and, entering the army, served with distinction in Holland, Egypt, Italy; had hard fighting through the Peninsular War in 1808–1814, and, embarking for America in the latter year, in command of four battalions, he won the battle of Bladensburg against a much superior force of United States troops, and captured Washington—a stroke of amazing boldness, carried out with absolute success. Three weeks later, Ross was mortally wounded riding at the front in an attack on Baltimore. A public monument to his memory stands in St. Paul's Cathedral, and another at Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he is buried. The Rostrevor obelisk was erected by the officers of the Chesapeake force and the gentry of Co. Down; and his old regiment, the 20th, placed a memorial tablet in the parish church. A royal warrant, in 1815, ordained that his widow and descendants might henceforward use the name "Ross-of-Bladensburg."

WARRENPOINT.

A succession of pretty villa residences fringes the road from Rostrevor to Warrenpoint, which is well situated on a projection of the shore where the bay abruptly narrows at the entrance of the estuary of the Newry River, and a glorious view extends down the mountain-rimmed lough. The leading features of the town are its fine promenade fronting the sea for half a-mile, and commanding a superb view of the lough and the Carlingford and Mourne Mountains; and the large open square, close to which are situated the harbour and railway station. Warrenpoint has come to the front remarkably fast. At the beginning of the century it consisted of a few houses. Now, it has a population of over 2,000, and an abundance of lodging-houses and hotels. Good bathing and plenty of boating may be had, and there is a delightful nine-hole golf-course close at hand. A ferry connects with Omeath, on the opposite shore of the lough, whence an excursion can conveniently be made to the beautifully-situated and interesting town of Carlingford and the grand mountain that rises over it. These places, as well as Greenore, may also be reached by pleasure steamer from Warrenpoint. But Carlingford, as well as the important town of Newry and the north-western portion of Co. Down, lies outside the scope of the present Guide.

II.—ROSTREVOR TO HILLTOWN, KILKEEL via HILLTOWN, AND NEWCASTLE.

We now leave Rostrevor on the return journey to Newcastle *via* Hilltown. Our road passes out of the village between the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches. Half-a-mile out the road forks. Both branches will lead us to Hilltown, one up each side of the Kilbroney valley; but the better road, and the one used by the tourist coaches, is that which turns down to the right across the river, and up the south side of the glen. Mountains rise on either hand: the high hills on the right

are clothed with wood, and Cloughmore is clearly visible, resting on a projecting spur. Down by the stream are a couple of mills devoted to beetling and finishing linens, and an adjoining bleach-green converts the meadows into vivid bars of green and white. Behind us, as we ascend the glen, lovely views of the lough and Carlingford Mountain are obtained over the woods of Rostrevor. At 3½ miles, where the road crosses back to the north bank of the river, we leave the last trace of cultivation, and our route lies through the boulder-strewn valley, where Heather, Bracken, and Bog-Myrtle take the place of pasture and cereals. The road ascends steeply now, the valley opens out, and we see the head of the glen, with Rocky Mountain rising beyond. The summit (600 feet) is soon reached, and, passing between Crotlieve (*cruit shliabh*, humped mountain) and Tievedockaragh (*taobh docarach*, the hard-surfaced hillside), we commence to descend, with young woods of Scotch Fir and Larch on our right hand. As the view widens, we see in front the fertile grounds of the Bann valley, with the distant ridge of Slieve Croob beyond. On the right, a rough but much-used road zigzags up the steep hill-side towards the extensive turf cuttings on the Castle Bog, at the back of Altataggart Mountain (*alt-a'-tsagairt*, the priest's glen-side). As we drop down again cottages re-appear, set among clumps of pines and other trees. A road diverging to the left here will lead us direct to **HILLTOWN** (8½ miles). The tourist coaches keep straight on, passing a mile east of that place; but Hilltown is a pretty and interesting spot, and well worth a visit. It lies high, on a ridge overlooking the Bann, and commands a glorious view of the mountains. To the east lie Craigdoo (*craig dubh*, the black rock, 1317 feet), and the high green summit of Spelga (*speilgeach*, the place of pointed rocks; not to be confounded with the hill of the same name lying south of Rostrevor), rising behind the wooded hill of Kinnahalla (972 feet). To the right of Spelga is the

glen of the Bann, with Carn Mountain (1919 feet) closing it at the back. Hen Mountain rises conspicuously in front of the higher peaks; it is a low hill (1187 feet), but attracts attention by its twin humps of bare granite. Behind it rises Cock Mountain (1,662 feet), with the spur of Slieve-na-miskan (*sliabh-na-mioscan*, the mountain of the carns) overhanging the gorge of the Bann Beyond Cock Mountain to the right are the brown western slopes of Pigeon Rock Mountain (1,749 feet), and further to the right Slieve Maganmore (1,837 feet) peeps out from behind Rocky Mountain (1,328 feet). Next, the summits of Eagle Mountain (2,084 feet) and Shanlieve (*sean shliabh*, old mountain, 2,055 feet), the two highest points west of the Bann, rise nobly. The mountain view closes to the west with the slopes of Altataggart (1,362 feet) and Tievedockaragh (1,557 feet). But be it noted that the giants of the Mourne range are not among those which we view from Hilltown. They lie behind, and to the eastward, and are shut out from our sight by the lower points in front. Hilltown is a breezy, clean village, with a population of 221, built at four cross-roads, the church and a good inn (Downshire Arms) being the principal buildings. It forms an excellent centre for the exploration of the mountains, as it lies half-way along the chain, and is the northern termination of the road which passes right across the range to Kilkeel. The naturalist could not wish for a better base of operations. The fisherman will get good sport in the waters of the Bann, which passes within half-a-mile of the village (see p. 12). The antiquary should make a point of visiting the great cromleac which stands at the foot of Goward Hill (*guth-árd*, high voice, from the echo), on the right-hand side of the old Castlewellan road two miles from Hilltown. This is one of the finest megalithic monuments in the county. It is known as Cloughmore (*cloch mór*, big stone), or as "Pat Kearney's Big Stone," from the cottier who lives hard by, and whose pride it is to show visitors the ancient relic that stands

among the fir-trees beside his farmstead. The cap-stone is of granite, measuring about 13 feet by 10 feet by 5 feet thick, and it covers a double chamber formed by a number of upright and prostrate stones. The total height of the cromleac is fully 13 feet, and the cap-stone is estimated to weigh 50 tons. Cinerary urns and other traces of sepulture were found under the main chamber.

Hilltown may be reached from Newcastle (11½ miles) by a beautiful road which skirts the mountains; from



"PAT KEARNEY'S BIG STONE"

Warrenpoint (9¼ miles) or from Ballyroney (6 miles), both on branches of the Great Northern Railway; or from Rostrevor by the route which we have traversed. From Ballyroney we pass half-way the town of **RATHFRILAND** (*rath Fraoileann*, Freelan's fort), which is built on the top of a steep and isolated hill, so that the town commands a wide view over the surrounding country, and is visible for many miles in every direction.

From Hilltown we take the road for Newcastle, which

drops eastward down the hill to the BANN, here a fine brawling stream. The river rises on the western slope of Slieve Muck, and, receiving a number of small tributaries in the high mountain-rimmed moor called the Deer's Meadow, it roars down a grand gorge between Spelga and Slieve-na-miskan into the plain below. Above Hilltown it is joined by two considerable affluents- the Rocky River and Leitrim River (*liath dhruim*, grey ridge), and the fine stream thus formed flows under the Hilltown bridge and meanders away northward across Co. Down. Just beyond the bridge, the new and old roads to Castlewellan turn off to the left. Our road skirts the high bank of the Bann for a short distance, affording grand mountain views. A mile from Hilltown, on the left, stands the old church and graveyard of Clonduff (*cluain daimh*, the meadow of the ox). Below the east gable is a finely carved grave-slab of the Magennis family, of red Castle Espie limestone, with an elaborate coat-of-arms. A very large slab of grey limestone, beside the last, marks the grave of John O'Neill, of Bann Vale, one of the first of local bleachers, who died in 1809.

A lane which turns at a slight angle to the left 150 yards past the church leads us (half-a-mile) to the southern slope of Goward Hill, where may be seen the remains of an interesting stone circle of 35 feet diameter. One-half was removed some years ago to permit of ploughing, but the western half remains, and is specially noteworthy as having an avenue of stones 25 feet long leading up to it. This alignment is formed of two rows of long slabs set on edge a few feet apart, and the space enclosed between them is divided into several grave-like partitions by slabs placed transversely. A number of large standing-stones in the vicinity attest the importance of the place in pagan times. Built into the fence, beside the remains of a rath which stands between this spot and Clonduff church, may be seen a granite stone bearing pre-historic carving of the "cup and gutter" pattern.

Half-a-mile beyond the old church of Clonduff, the **HILLTOWN-KILKEEL ROAD** branches off on the right-hand side. This road passes through grand mountain scenery, and the visitor should make a point of traversing it. He can either cross the range and drop down on Kilkeel or Annalong, or he can turn to the left at the head of the Deer's Meadow, and rejoin our route by the road which descends by the source of the Shimna River; the latter detour adds 2½ miles and a considerable climb to the distance (11½ miles) from Hilltown to Newcastle. This mountain road to Kilkeel ascends the valley of the Bann. Kinnahalla Wood is passed on the left, and for a mile and a-half the ascent is severe. The road climbs along the steep side of Spelga, with the Bann thundering in its gorge below. Then the valley opens out into the wide boggy expanse of the Deer's Meadow (1,000 to 1,300 feet elevation), with the long green ridge of Slieve Muck (*sliabh muc*, the pig's mountain—2,198 feet), where the Bann has its source, on the left, and the grand cliffs of Pigeon Rock (1,749 feet) beginning to show out on the right. At the head of the Deer's Meadow (5 miles) our road is joined by the road which ascends by the Shimna valley from Bryansford. A little further on we reach the highest point of the pass (1,350 feet) and commence descending the valley of the White Water, the splendid precipice of Pigeon Rock Mountain, composed partly of slate, partly of granite, towering over the stream on our right.

We now see in front, far beyond the valley, the broad fringe of fertile ground south of the mountains, the Irish Sea, and entrance of Carlingford Lough. Once clear of the long ridge of Slieve Muck, the road bends eastward, and crosses the Yellow Water. South of the bridge a rough road turns to the left which is a useful track for the pedestrian. It runs for several miles northward into the mountains, terminating at the turf-bog on the shores of Lough Shannagh; and it commands some of the very finest



SLIEVE BEARNAGH AND SLIEVE MEEL-MORE, FROM THE NORTH.

scenery in the Mournes. Beyond the Yellow Water, our road gets down into civilised regions, and leads into Kilkeel (12½ miles).

To return to the **HILLTOWN-NEWCASTLE ROAD,** which we left where the mountain road turns off 1½ mile from Hilltown. A quarter of a mile further on, our road is joined by the road by which the tourist coaches travel from Rostrevor to Newcastle, and which we traversed until we turned off to visit Hilltown. For several miles the road rises now out of the valley of the Bann. The summit is at Fofanny (*foffenagh*, the place of thistles —4 miles, 600 feet elevation). The school-house beside the road bears the name in Irish as well as in English characters. Now the high eastern peaks begin to show out. The long ridge of Slieve Meel-more (*sliabh mael mór*, the big bare mountain, 2,237 feet), and the cone of Slieve Meel-beg (the little bare mountain, 2,310 feet), tower brown and dark. Beyond them rises the lower Slieve-na-glogh (*sliabh-na-gloch*, the mountain of stones) and Slieve Corragh (*sliabh carrach*, the rugged mountain), with the shoulder of Slieve Commedagh (*sliabh coimheada*, the mountain of watching) showing over them, and further to the right a peep of the summit of Slieve Donard. The long dark ridge of Slieve-na-man (*sliabh-na-mban*, the mountain of the women) appears to block the passage in front of us. The road swings round its northern flank, and Castlewellan with its tall spires opens up, and the fertile country far to the north-east. Next, Lough Island Reavy comes into view, picturesquely embosomed in rocky hills. The woods of Moneyscalp (*muine sceilp*, the shrubbery of the chasm) appear in front, and as the road bends to the right and clears Slieve-na-man, a grand view bursts upon us, the rock-crowned Slieve Bearnagh (*sliabh bernach*, the gapped mountain—2,394 feet) towering up across the valley right in front, with Slieve-na-glogh and Slieve Commedagh flanking it on the left, and the twin giants Slieve Meel-more and Slieve Meel-beg on the

right. As we proceed, the familiar woods of Tollymore Park appear in the valley below us. As we pass along the slope of Tullyree Hill, a fine dyke will be observed on the left-hand side, cutting through massive grits in a small rock-exposure by the roadside. Skirting the demesne, we pass through Bryansford, and again reach the coast at Newcastle (11½ miles).

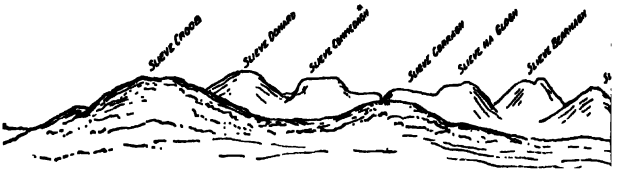
12.—THE MOURNE MOUNTAINS.

THE glory of Co. Down, and of Newcastle in particular, is the grand mountain-range that towers over the plains of Lecale and Iveagh, and over the Irish Sea. These lofty hills naturally attracted the attention of the early inhabitants of the district. By them the range was named *Beanna Boirche* (Banna Borka), the peaks (literally horns) of Boirche. The origin of the name is picturesquely related in the *Dinnshenchas*,* a curious 12th century work on the topography of Ireland :—"Bairche, Ross Ruddy-yellow's cow-herd [Ross was King of Ulster, A.D. 248]; and this was his herdsman's seat, the Benn, and (there) equally would he herd every cow from Dunseverick to the Boyne : and no (one) beast of them would graze a bit in excess of another. So thence is *Benn Bairchi*, 'Bairche's Peak,' as said (the poet) :

> 'Bairche, the famous cowherd,
> Who belonged to very mighty Ross the Red :
> The peak was the soft seat of the herdsman,
> Who was not weak against sadness.'"

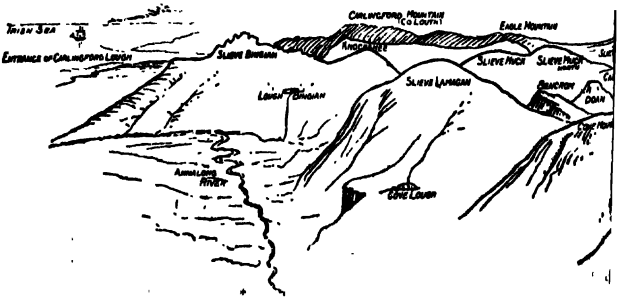
St. Fiach mentions the range under this name in the hymn which he wrote in the 6th century. The *Taxation* of 1306 appears to contain the first mention of the district under a name resembling its modern appellation; the "Church of Mocorne" [Kilkeel] is there valued at 10 marks. The name "Mourne" was

* See Stokes : *The Edinburgh Dinnshenchas*, in *Folk-Lore*, vol. iv., 1893.



THE MOURNE MOUNTAINS

given to the district on account of an emigration thither of a tribe of the MacMahons, who came from Cre-Mourne (*Crioch Mughdhorna*, the country of the descendants of Mughdhorn, who was son of Colla Meann), in Co. Monaghan, and settled here in the middle of the 12th century. The Anglo-Normans secured possession of the district shortly after their arrival in 1177. Their two chief strongholds, for a long period, were Dundrum to the north-east, and Greencastle to the south-west of the mountains, and no doubt the "Irish felons," who several times cut up the English forces and destroyed their castles, harboured among the fastnesses and wild glens of Banna Borka. But despite the constant wars of extermination, despite the continual killing-off of "Irishe rebelles," and their replacement by Scottish and English settlers, there is still a distinctly Irish element noticeable among the people around the skirts of the mountains. Here we may still hear the native tongue spoken, and listen to weird

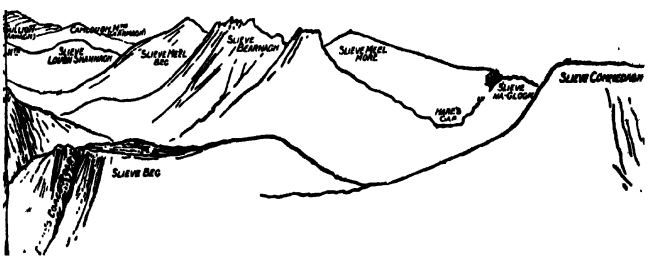

IRISH SEA
ENTRANCE OF CARLINGFORD LOUGH
SLIEVE BINNIAN
CARLINGFORD MOUNTAIN
EAGLE MOUNTAIN
SLIEVE MUCK
SLIEVE LAMAGAN
LOUGH ENAGH
ANNALONG RIVER
CRAIGMORE
DOAN
CRAIGMORE
CRAIGMORE
DUNDRUM
CRAIGMORE
DUNDRUM
CRAIGMORE
DUNDRUM



M THE NORTH (ABOVE LISBURN).

stories of pookas and banshees, and all the imaginative lore of the Celt.

The Mourne Mountains form the most elevated land in Ulster, and one of the most picturesque mountain-groups in Ireland. They cover an elliptical area of about 14 miles by 7 miles, the longer axis of which runs in a north-eastern and south-western direction. At their eastern extremity, close to Newcastle, the Mournes descend steeply into the Irish Sea, and at their western end drop with equal abruptness into the sheltered waters of the beautiful Bay of Carlingford. On a day of tolerable clearness, as far south as Dublin, their lofty cones may be sighted rising out of the blue waters of the Irish Sea, far to the eastward of the low and indented coast-line that stretches its sinuous length between. From the north, as seen from the neighbourhood of Belfast, the Mourne Mountains tower up nobly beyond the undulating and fertile surface of County Down (see sketch). From the



NS, FROM THE SUMMIT OF SLIEVE DONARD.

westward we get glimpses of the long brown ridges of their western extremity, as the train hurries us northward through the rugged hills and boggy flats that lie around Slieve Gullion, in Armagh—that mountain famed in Irish legend as the home of dread wizards and strange monsters, and the scene of heroic deeds by mighty champions. To the eastward the Mournes impend over the Irish Sea, where their picturesque outline arrests the eye of the summer visitor to the Isle of Man.

With these distant views acquaintance has in many cases stopped, for till lately few have ventured on a thorough exploration of these brown hills and deep silent valleys. The reason is, probably, absence of knowledge concerning the neighbourhood, non-acquaintance with the picturesqueness and interest of the district, and with the important fact that some of the finest hotels in Ireland are to be found within its limits, and comfortable though unostentatious inns in almost all the villages that lie along the outskirts of the mountains.

In the neighbouring mountain districts of Antrim and Wicklow the higher summits are in general somewhat scattered; fertile valleys intervene, and as a consequence good roads traverse these regions in various directions. The Mournes, on the contrary, resemble the beautiful Twelve Bens of Connemara: the summits are grouped close together, with deep valleys between them bounded by high rocky ridges, road-making being thus rendered unprofitable and difficult. One road alone crosses the range—that which climbs up the course of the Bann from Hilltown, and, joined by a branch which ascends the Shimna valley from Bryansford, passes across the boggy waste called the Deer's Meadow, and, crossing the water-shed at an elevation of over 1,200 feet, drops down under the slate and granite cliffs of Pigeon Rock Mountain to the lower grounds behind Kilkeel. The more interesting mountains, and all the higher peaks, lie on the eastward or Newcastle side of this north and south line; and to this

eastern half of the range, therefore, our attention will be chiefly directed. Here we have a horseshoe-shaped chain of peaks, starting with Spence's Mountain on the south-east, and including Chimney Rock (2,152 feet), Slieve Donard (2,796 feet), Slieve Commedagh (2,512 feet), Slieve Bearnagh (2,394 feet), and the two Slieve Meels (2,310 feet and 2,237 feet), and terminating in the south-west with the long ridge of Slieve Muck (2,198 feet). Down the centre of the interior of this horse-shoe runs a second high chain, the principal summits of which are Slieve Lamagan (2,306 feet) and the huge and splendid mass of Slieve Bingian (2,449 feet). Between this central ridge and the horns of the horse-shoe lie the two finest valleys of the district, those of the Annalong River and Kilkeel River, each taking its name from the little town that stands at its mouth. Most of the summits are dome-shaped or conical, as is usually the case with granite mountains; but some of them, notably Slieve Bearnagh and Slieve Bingian, are crowned with glorious crags, where on the calmest day the wind sings through the crevices, and rustles the shining leaves of the Dwarf Willow, the Cowberry, and other alpine plants. The hill-slopes are in general steep and fairly smooth; but in many places great cliffs overhang the valleys, such as those of Slieve Beg, Bencrom, Pigeon Rock, and Eagle Mountain. As might be expected from the steep slope of the ground, the lakes of the Mournes are few in number. The largest piece of water is Lough Shannagh (*the lake of the foxes*), half-a-mile in length, lying at an elevation of 1,350 feet. The Blue Lough (1,100 feet) is most romantically situated in a deep hollow between Slieve Lamagan and Slieve Bingian; and Lough Bingian (1,350 feet) is perched on a high shelf of the mountain above. The most important river of the district is the Bann, which rises in the centre of the range, and flows northward through Hilltown away across Co. Down into Lough Neagh, and thence to the North Atlantic. The remaining

drainage of the northern slopes passes eastward by the Shimna River to the Irish Sea at Newcastle, and south-westward by several streams into Carlingford Lough. Down the southern slopes a number of fine streams find their way—the Annalong and Kilkeel Rivers into the Irish Sea, the White Water and Causeway Water into Carlingford Lough. The low grounds around the mountains are very fertile and highly tilled. The line of cultivation on the slopes of the hills varies according to the steepness of the ground and the nature of the soil; the limit of cereals ranges from 200 feet on the steep, bare, exposed side of Donard, to 900 feet on the sheltered, drift-covered slopes of Gruggandoo.

NATURAL HISTORY.—GEOLOGY.—The Mourne Mountains are the denuded remains of a mass of intrusive rock that has thrust itself through the thick series of Ordovician and Silurian strata, which stretch from County Down away south-westward across Armagh and Monaghan into Cavan and Louth. This intrusive rock is a fine-grained and very tough grey granite, passing into the granophyre of many authors; it is composed of quartz, orthoclase, albite, and green or black mica, and is peculiar inasmuch as the quartz has crystallised first, instead of last, as is usual in rocks of this kind. Professor Sollas has shown that the mica contains lithium, and is referable to the rare species called zinnwaldite.* The granite is usually traversed by several series of joints, and these play an important part in the scenery of the range. Thus, a strong series of vertical and horizontal joints at the Castles of Commedagh has conduced to the formation of the grand bastions and jointed pyramids of that picturesque spot. On the western side of Slieve Bearnagh, a set of great parallel joint-planes, dipping at a somewhat high angle, has produced the enormous slopes of bare granite that look across the valley to Slieve Meel-more. Elsewhere, as on the precipice below Cove Lough, the strong horizontal jointing gives the cliffs the appearance of gigantic walls of ashlar masonry. In many places the granite is full of drusy cavities, or geodes, which are lined with beautiful crystals of smoky quartz, orthoclase, black mica, and, less commonly, amethyst, beryl, topaz, chrysoberyl, fluor, peridot, and gadolinite. This character is seen in perfection at the Diamond Rocks, on the southern slope of Slieve-na-glogh. The eastern coast is traversed by an enormous number of basic igneous dykes, many of them composite; among them are several of the very rare rock variolite. These dykes are cut off by the granite, which is itself traversed by later grey-green basic dykes, such as are occasionally met with upon the open moors, in contrast to the pale surfaces of granite. The Mourne granite has often been compared with the

* Sollas, On the occurrence of Zinnwaldite in the granite of the Mourne Mountains, *Proc. R. I. Academy*, 3rd ser., vol. i., no. 3, 1890.

similar rocks of Mull and Skye; and there is every reason to believe that, like the latter, they are of early Cainozoic age. When describing the variolite of Annalong, Professor Cole suggested that the earlier series of dykes, clearly post-Ordovician, were really post-Cretaceous; and his observations in County Antrim have led him to correlate these dykes with the first series of basalt-flows in North-east Ireland, the granite of Mourne in consequence corresponding with the rhyolitic eruptions of Tardree. The later basic dykes of Mourne would then represent the "upper basalts" of County Antrim. This view has been arrived at independently by the officers of the Geological Survey of Ireland;* and the Eocene age of the granite, at any rate, may be accepted almost without reserve.

The phenomena of successive intrusions and of contact-intermingling deserve close attention Professor Sollas has rendered the region of Carlingford Mountain, south of the Mournes, classic as an example of the manufacture of new rocks from the interpenetration of two older ones; and a local case of the re-fusion of a basalt dyke by an invading eurite has been studied at Glasdrumman by Professor Cole. The examination of the district may be rendered complete by a study of the metamorphosed Ordovician strata. Considerably altered by their contact with the granite, they lap round the flanks of the mountains. Along the sea-shore south of Newcastle, and elsewhere, we may observe how the grits and sandy shales have been altered into very hard ribboned jasper-like rock, in which the stratification is rendered beautifully distinct. The Ordovicians seldom rise higher than 1,000 feet, but in the neighbourhood of Slieve Muck they have been carried up on the top of the intruding mass of granite, forming the summit of Slieve Muck North (2,198 feet); and they may be seen capping the precipitous ridge that runs southward for about a mile, with the granite clearly below them.

The Carboniferous Limestone, which lies round the base of Carlingford Mountain and forms the dangerous reefs that block the entrance of Carlingford Lough, occupies for a short distance the Co. Down shore, but calls for no special remark. The district appears to have been severely glaciated; the deposits of the general glaciation of Ireland are obscured by the abundant *débris* of local glaciers, and the coarse gravelly non-fossiliferous drift of the district will be found less interesting than the fossiliferous Boulder Clays of Belfast and elsewhere. The usual signs of glaciation are well seen in many places; ice-rounding, rock-striation, and *roches moutonnées*, occur up to considerable elevations on the mountains. Several of the valleys contain well-marked moraines, the expiring efforts of small glaciers which lingered on the higher grounds. The most noticeable is that which blocks the glen of the Kilkeel River below Moolieve, where the new reservoir for the Belfast Waterworks is to be constructed. A great bank of stones and gravel extends almost across the valley, and the effect of its obstruction is evident in the flat alluvial plain that extends for fully two miles up stream. Perched blocks in many spots attest the carrying power of the ice-streams. Of these the best known is Cloughmore, above Rostrevor; but many others are scattered over the range, as on the summit

* M'Henry: Sketch of the Geology of County Antrim, *Proc. Geol. Association* for 1895.

of Slieve Magairmore, the Ordovician cap of which is decorated with stranded blocks of granite. In the valley of the Kilkeel River and White Water stratified gravels cap the Drift, and have been assigned to the Middle Glacial deposits. At Greenore and Newcastle may be seen small exposures of the post-glacial blue marine clays which, at Belfast, Larne, and elsewhere, yield so remarkably abundant a fauna; and latest of all the local deposits, a well-marked raised beach sweeps along the flat ground from Kilkeel westward, and on the Louth side of Carlingford Lough forms the extensive gravel-spit of Greenore, which yields marine shells and neolithic implements. Among the dunes at Newcastle, where the wind has cleared away the sand, may be seen the long parallel ridges of coarse shingle left by storms in days gone by, when the land stood lower than at present.



THE HAPPY VALLEY AND MORAINE.

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See also "COUNTY DOWN.—GEOLOGY."

ZOOLOGY.—The Fox and Badger still haunt the rocks and glens of the Mournes, and the Otter skulks along the streams. The Irish Stoat is common here as elsewhere. The Marten has been trapped in recent years in Tollymore Park, where the introduced Squirrel is spreading. The

Peregrine Falcon and Raven hold sway on the mountain-cliffs; the former breeds in a number of places. Ring-Ouzels, Water-Ouzels, Merlins, Night-jars, Curlews, Woodcocks, and many other birds breed regularly. The Golden Eagle formerly bred, but is quite extinct. Among Invertebrates, some good mountain and northern species occur, and also others of interest. The list of local Mollusca includes *Helix fusca*, *H. pygmæa*, *H. acuta*, *H. concinna*, *Vertigo pygmæa* and *V. edentula*, and *Planorbis contortus*, all of which have been taken near Newcastle. The spider *Tmeticus prudens*, recently taken on Slieve Donard, is at present known from only a couple of other stations in the British Isles; and the rare Arctic beetle *Otiorrhynchus maurus* has Slieve Donard for its only Irish station. The sand-dunes north of Newcastle, and the extensive pine woods of Donard Lodge, are among the best hunting-grounds for Butterflies and Moths in the north of Ireland. Among the rarer captures made here are the Anomalous Moth (*Stilbia anomala*), Beautiful Brocade (*Hadena contigua*), *Ennomos quercinaria*, Amulet (*Gnophos obscurata*), Grey Scalloped Bar (*Scodonia belgiaria*), Bordered White (*Bupalus piniaria*), *Emmelesia taeniata*, Pine Carpet Moth (*Thera firmata*), and *Pamplusia mercuriana*. The summit of Slieve Donard has yielded the only British specimens of the spider *Entelecara brocchi*.

REFERENCES.—See under "COUNTY DOWN.—ZOOLOGY"

BOTANY.—In common with other Irish mountain groups, alpine plants grow rather sparingly on the Mourne Mountains, but some good species occur, and on the lower grounds a number of botanical rarities are found. To take the alpine plants first:—On almost all the higher summits we get the Cowberry (*Vaccinium Vitis-idæa*), Dwarf Willow (*Salix herbacea*), Alpine Club-moss (*Lycopodium alpinum*), Starry Saxifrage (*Saxifraga stellaris*), Rose-root (*Sedum Rhodiola*). Mountain Saw-wort (*Saussurea alpina*), Dwarf Juniper (*Juniperus nana*), Parsley Fern (*Cryptogramme crispa*), have a more limited range, though the second of them is locally abundant. The Quillwort (*Isoetes lacustris*) grows in all the mountain lakes, accompanied by Water Lobelia (*L. Dortmanna*) and the curious deep-water form of the Rush *Juncus supinus*. The range is rich in Hawkweeds. Among the forms which occur are *H. cinerascens*, *H. argenteum*, *H. flocculosum*, *H. gothicum* and var. *Stewartii* (known from this district alone), *H. hibernicum* (one Scotch and one other Irish locality), and *H. auratum*. Among the other plants found on the mountain-sides, cliffs, or rocky river-banks are Mountain Meadow-Rue (*Thalictrum collinum*), Welsh Poppy (*Meconopsis cambrica*), Lesser Butterwort (*Pinguicula lusitanica*), Lesser Twayblade (*Listera cordata*), Beech Fern (*Polypodium Phegopteris*), Brittle Bladder-fern (*Cystopteris fragilis*), Mountain Buckler-fern (*Lastrea Oreopteris*), One-sided Filmy Fern (*Hymenophyllum unilaterale*), *Equisetum hyemale*. On heathy or boggy tracts or pools on the lower grounds grow Meadow Thistle (*Carduus pratensis*), Floating Bur-Reed (*Sparganium affine*), Least Bur-Reed (*S. minimum*), Twig-Rush (*Cladium germanicum*), Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*), Moonwort (*Botrychium Lunaria*). The rich woods of Tollymore Park yield, among other plants, Alpine Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circæa alpina*), Wood Fescue-grass (*Festuca sylvatica*), Bree's Fern (*Lastrea æmula*). On the lighter soils of the cultivated slopes grow Intermediate Winter Cress (*Barbarea inter-*

media), Pale Fumitory *(Fumaria pallidiflora)*, Musky Stork's-bill *(Erodium moschatum)*, Bastard Pimpernel *(Centunculus minimus)*, Creeping Toad-flax *(Linaria repens)*, Intermediate Dead-Nettle *(Lamium intermedium)*. Lastly, the rocks, shingle, and sands of the coast-line that sweeps round from Newcastle to Warrenpoint are the home of a large variety of interesting plants, of which the following may be mentioned:—Seaside Meadow-Rue *(Thalictrum dunense)*, Horned Poppy *(Glaucium flavum)*, Sea Radish *(Raphanus maritimus)*, Curtis's Pansy *(Viola Curtisii)*, Rock Sandwort *(Buda rupestris)*, Sea Stork's-bill *(Erodium maritimum)*, Sea Gromwell *(Pneumaria maritima)*, Few-flowered Sea-Lavender *(Statice rariflora)*, Sea Purslane *(Atriplex portulacoides)*, Ray's Knot-grass *(Polygonum Raii)*, Sea Spurge *(Euphorbia Paralias)*, Portland Spurge *(E. portlandica)*, Sea Cat's-tail Grass *(Phleum arenarium)*, Dwarf Sea Wheat-grass *(Festuca rottbœllioides)*.

Among Mosses, *Andræa alpina* and *A. crassinervis* occur on the summits, while *Diphyscium foliosum* is very common in chinks of rocks and frequently fruits. *Rhacomitrium ellipticum* and *Glyphomitrium Daviesii* grow on rocks on Slieve Donard. *Hypnum sarmentosum* occurs in marshy spots. *H. flagellare* is very luxuriant by streams in the granite, and is a marked feature of the moss vegetation; *Fontinalis squamosa* and *Hypnum ochraceum* also occur in streams. *Mollia inclinata* grows on rocks near the shore. Many species of *Sphagnaceæ* grow in the bogs. The district is fairly rich in *Hepaticæ*, especially the damp recesses of Tollymore Park and Rostrevor, where *Trichocolea tomentella*, *Jubula Hutchinsiæ*, *Lejeunea Mackaii*, *and L. calcarea* grow. High up on wet shaded rocks are found *Radula aquilegia*, *Lejeunea ovata*, and *L. hamatifolia*. The beautiful *Pleurozia cochleariformis*, not found in England, occurs in bogs among the mountains, but sparingly. *Pallavicinia hibernica* has been found on the sandhills at Newcastle.

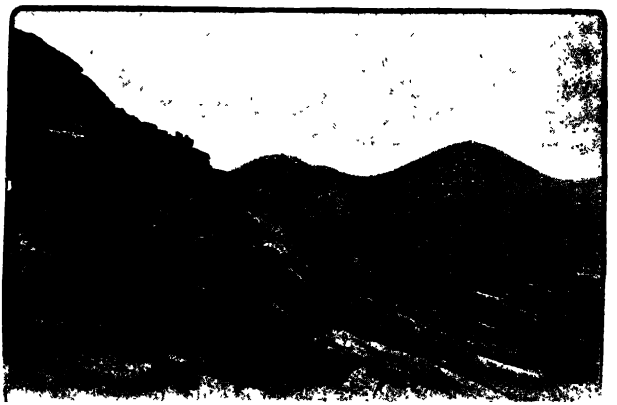
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See also under "COUNTY DOWN.—BOTANY."

13.—MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING IN THE MOURNES.

THE "Kingdom of Mourne" is a charming district for the pedestrian. No portion of the mountain-range is beyond reach of a fair day's walking, if one's starting-point be properly chosen. Newcastle, Kilkeel, Rostrevor, and Hilltown, at all of which good hotels will be found, form the best bases of operations; and of these Newcastle and Hilltown must have preference. The attraction of the

district is enhanced rather than diminished by the fact that with one exception no road penetrates the mountains, and that one's course lies along rough turf-roads or sheep-paths, or across the trackless heather. There is a marvellous charm about these great brown hills, where the silence is broken only by the murmuring of the streams and the bleating of the sheep; these gigantic walls of granite, tenanted only by the Peregrine and Raven; these deep quiet valleys and lonely tarns.



SLIEVE DONARD AND SLIEVE COMMEDAGH FROM SLIEVE BINGIAN.

The walking among the Mourne Mountains is not bad, as such ground goes. It is in general well to avoid the valley-bottoms and keep to the ridges, as the valleys are often filled with rutty peat, strewn with stones, with luxuriant heather hiding the stumbling-blocks and pitfalls.

The ridges, on the contrary, are usually smooth, clothed with short heather and grass, and it is often quicker to make a wide sweep round the head of a valley, than to take the shorter route across it. Besides, we get finer and more extensive views by maintaining a good elevation.

The excursions described below are selected so as to

include the most interesting and picturesque portions of the mountains, visited by the most accessible routes; but of course they can be varied according to the taste of the tourist and the circumstances of his visit. The distances are given according to three standards—(1) roads (*i.e.*, county roads), which may be driven; (2) rough mountain roads, unsuitable for driving or cycling; and (3) "mountain" (*i.e.*, the trackless mountain-side). One mile of the third class may be roughly reckoned equal to 1½ of the second or to 2 of the first, so far as the pedestrian's time and exertion are concerned. The highest and lowest points touched on each walk are added in the order in which they are reached, to convey an idea of the amount of climbing required.

I.—Slieve Donard and Slieve Commedagh.

Distances:—Mountain road, 1 mile; mountain, 5 miles; highest and lowest points—sea-level, 2,796, 1,900, and 2,512 feet, sea-level.

WE naturally commence our exploration of the mountains with the ascent of the "Monarch of Mourne," which rises directly above Newcastle. This is a moderate walk with which to begin our rambles, and from the lofty summit we get a good idea of the lie of the country, and can map out future excursions. This grand hill has attracted attention from the earliest times. The first event associated with it is probably that recorded in the *Annals of the Four Masters* under *Anno Mundi* 2533:—"Slainge, son of Partholan,* died in this year, and was interred in the carn on Sliabh Slangha." And after this hero the mountain was, for many centuries, called Slieve Slanga, and his carn still forms a conspicuous object on its very summit. Giraldus Cambrensis, in his *Topographia Hibernica*, which he wrote after a sojourn in Ireland in 1185, as the tutor of Prince John, son of Henry II., refers to Slieve Donard:—"A very high mountain,

* See p. 4.

towering over the sea which flows between Britain and Ireland, is named after the second son [of Partholan]. St. Dominic having, many ages afterwards, built a noble monastery at the foot of this mountain, it is now better known by the name of *Mons Dominicus.*" The "noble monastery" was that of Maghera, and St. Dominic was St. Domhanghart or Domangard, an ecclesiastic who flourished at the end of the 5th century. He was a disciple of St. Patrick, and in addition to founding the church of Maghera, he built a rude cell and chapel on the summit of the great mountain that towered close at hand, to which he is said to have frequently retired for meditation and prayer. He attained great celebrity for piety and devotion, and after him the mountain has ever since been called Slieve Domhanghart, or, by contraction, Slieve Donard. For many centuries the saint's name was held in the highest veneration throughout the district. Colgan (*Acta Sanctorum*, 1645) speaks of the great concourse of people who, during the times of persecution, used to make pilgrimages to this remote spot; and Harris, writing in 1744, states that at that time the mountain was still much resorted to by pilgrims who did penance and paid devotions to the saint. He describes "two rude edifices" on the summit, "one being a huge Heap of Stones piled up in a piramidical figure, in which are formed several cavities, wherein the Devotees shelter themselves in bad Weather while they hear Mass; and in the centre of this Heap is a Cave formed by broad flat stones, so disposed as to support each other without the help of Cement. The other Edifice is composed of many Stones, so disposed in rude Walls and Partitions, called *Chappels*, and perhaps was the Oratory and Cell erected by St. Domangard before hinted."* When the Ordnance Survey was in progress, about the year 1825, the Royal Engineers were encamped for a time on the summit of Slieve Donard, which was one of the points of the main triangulation between

* Harris: *County Down*, p. 121.

Ireland and Great Britain, the other stations being Snowdon in Wales, and Scawfell Pike in Cumberland. They rebuilt the great carn on the summit for their own purposes, and probably destroyed the last traces of the ancient grave of Slainge; but certain built portions of the upper or great carn may be a surviving relic of St. Domangard's lonely oratory, where, according to a tradition which lingers among the people, the saint still says mass every Sunday.

The ascent of Slieve Donard, the highest mountain in the province of Ulster, is not attended with any difficulties. The hill is a huge dome of granite, 2,796 feet in height, with several spurs running out to the north and east. The ascent may be made from any direction; the only place to be avoided is the precipitous Eagle Rock on the northern side, which overhangs the upper part of the valley of the Glen River. Certain other spots, such as the rocky face of Thomas Mountain (the north-eastern spur which directly overlooks Newcastle) and the screes on the south-east side of the summit, the pedestrian will prefer to leave alone. The route which we recommend as offering the easiest gradients, and smoothest and driest walking, is that *vid* the quarries. We have traversed the route dry-shod the whole way after heavy October rains. This route will now be described. Leaving Newcastle, we pass through the entrance gate of Donard Lodge, and immediately, even before we pass the gate-house, we turn sharp to the left up the hill. A rough path leads us up through the woods beside a brawling streamlet, which is our companion for the greater part of the ascent. After ten minutes' climbing we cross a stile and an avenue running horizontally along the mountain-side. A few yards beyond, the path bends to the right and splits into three. We keep sharp to the left and follow our streamlet up the hill, keeping it on our left-hand side. As we ascend, the slope becomes less steep, the fir-woods get thinner, the trees lower and more stunted. Half-an-hour (leisurely) from the gate-lodge we

pass out of th · trees, climb through a gap in the demesne wall, and reach the quarries (750 feet). Here we get our first view. Below us, over the dark fir-woods through which we have passed, lies Newcastle, the grand sweep of Dundrum Bay, and the fertile fields of Co. Down stretching into the far distance. To the right is the Irish Sea and the distant Isle of Man; to the left, hilly country stretches from Castlewellan to Slieve Croob. We clamber over the piles of quarry *débris* and continue our ascent, still keeping the stream on our left. A rough path leads us upwards, with Millstone Mountain looking down on us on the left, and on the right, Thomas Mountain, with its cap of baked slate-rocks lying on the granite. The little valley up which we are climbing widens as we ascend, and the best walking is obtained by keeping to the right along the bottom of the slope of Thomas Mountain. We gradually leave the stream that has been our companion, and soon look down on its source, a mountain bog full of pools. A little further on we emerge from the hollow up which we have climbed, and see the grand cone of Slieve Donard towering up on our right front. We have now been climbing for an hour. Our route lies south-west, towards the right-hand base of the stony cone, and fifteen minutes later we begin the final ascent. The slope is steep, but the stunted vegetation makes a compact turf that is easy to walk on. Over on the right, we see the grand rocky slopes that drop from Slieve Commedagh into the Pot of Pulgarve (*poll garbh*, rough pool). Alpine plants begin to make their appearance now—the Dwarf Willow and the Cowberry, and Club-mosses. A steady climb of half-an-hour and our work is done. We pass the Lesser Carn (2,720 feet), and a few hundred yards of gradual ascent brings us to the Great Carn (2,796 feet), an hour and three-quarters after leaving Newcastle.* And now, if fortune has favoured us with a clear day, we

* The times here given are for an average pedestrian travelling at a leisurely rate. A practised mountaineer may save nearly 50 per cent. on these times. Persons unaccustomed to mountain-climbing might add 50 per cent. to the times given.

see a wonderfully extensive and varied prospect. All Co. Down is at our feet. Right beneath us lies Newcastle, with its long street and huge hotel, on the edge of the sandy bay which sweeps away northward and then eastward twelve miles to St. John's Point, where the tall white lighthouse stands sentinel over the Irish Sea. The sea fills all the eastern prospect, save where the blue hills of the Isle of Man break the line of the horizon. Over Newcastle we see the Inner Bay of Dundrum, and the little town with its dark Norman keep looking down on it. Further away, and to the right, lies Downpatrick, and beyond it the whole length of Strangford Lough, from the tide-swept entrance-channel to its head, where Scrabo tower rises clearly on its bold hill. Far beyond the fertile patchwork of Co. Down, the Belfast hills—Divis, Black Mountain, Squire's Hill, Cave Hill—may be seen on the northern horizon. More to the left, the granite mass of Slieve Croob, rising in the centre of the county, occupies the middle distance, and all the picturesque rocky hills that stretch from it southward to Castlewellan, which lies below us, guarded by its two tall white spires. Close by shimmer the waters of Lough Island Reavy. To the north-west lies Lough Neagh, a pale line along the horizon; and beyond it, if the air be clear, we may see Slieve Gallion in Co. Derry, the Sperrin Mountains that lie along the borders of Derry and Tyrone, and the dim blue hills of Donegal. Westward and southward, the scene is strikingly different. In lieu of fertile plains dotted with homesteads, the bare brown mountains fill the entire prospect (see sketch on pp. 202, 203). Every considerable eminence in the district, right across to Carlingford Mountain in Louth and Slieve Gullion in Armagh, is in full view. By far the most imposing mountain in sight is Slieve Bingian, which raises its rugged crest four miles to the south-south-west. Its edge is serrated like the teeth of a saw with the huge granite torrs that crown its slopes, and half-way up its

dark flanks we get a silvery glint from the waters of Lough Bingian. Running up from Slieve Bingian almost to our feet is the fine valley of the Annalong River, overhung on the west side by the precipitous faces of Slieve Lamagan, Cove Mountain, and Slieve Beg. Slieve Bearnagh, crowned, like Slieve Bingian, with a diadem of rocks, rises grandly to the westward, guarded on the left by Slieve Meel-beg, on the right by Slieve Meel-more. Far beyond the sea of mountains that stretches between these two monarchs rises the blue serrated ridge of Carlingford Mountain, and farther to the northward the swelling mass of Slieve Gullion. To the south-east, we look down on Chimney Rock Mountain, and beyond it the shore-line sweeps along past Annalong and Kilkeel. The entrance of Carlingford Lough is visible over the left flank of Slieve Bingian, with the dim low coast-line of Louth beyond it; and over the right flank of Bingian peeps the blue water of the lough itself. If the day be very clear, we shall see the Louth coast trending away southward towhere Lambay Island and the Hill of Howth, in Co. Dublin, rise dimly, and beyond them the faint but unmistakable conical outlines of the Great and Little Sugar-loaf in Co. Wicklow, and the high ridge of the Dublin Mountains. To the north-west, the mountain view terminates in Slieve Donard's flat-topped neighbour Slieve Commedagh, whose grand precipitous slopes drop down fifteen hundred feet into the Pot of Pulgarve.

The descent of the mountain may be made by the same route, but if a short further climb be not deemed overexertion, we would recommend the ascent of **SLIEVE COMMEDAGH** (*sliabh coimheada*, the mountain of watching; local pronunciation *Kimmedha* or *Kiviter*), and the descent from that summit to Newcastle. This route provides good walking all the way, and a series of new mountain views of much grandeur. Leaving the Great Carn of Slieve Donard, our course lies west-north-west, with Slieve Commedagh slightly on our right. In fifteen

minutes we lose 900 feet of our elevation, and stand on the wind-swept saddle (1,900 feet) between Donard and Commedagh. Northward, the deep valley of the Glen River plunges down towards Newcastle, overhung on the right by the Eagle Rock, on the left by the precipitous slopes of Commedagh. Far below, Newcastle smiles in the sunlight. Southward, the valley of the Annalong River stretches, the stream showing like a silver thread under the crested ridge of Slieve Bingian. We now bend to the right along the slope of Commedagh, keeping well up the hill to avoid the dangerous eastern scarp, and a short half-hour's climb brings us to the top of the mountain (2,512 feet). From the smooth grassy summit we get a grand view of Slieve Donard, towering up across the deep and narrow valley; and to the west and north-west fresh views are seen of Castlewellan, Rathfriland, &c. South-westward Carlingford Lough shows clearly to the right of Slieve Bingian We now turn north, and descend along the wind-shorn shoulders of Commedagh. From **SHANSLIEVE** (*sean shliabh*, old mountain—2,204 feet), beautiful mountain-views extend to the right and left, and our course lies along a narrow ridge which plunges down on either side for 1,000 to 1,500 feet. We proceed straight down the ridge, keeping the Glen River in sight on our right hand, but not entering its valley, till we come out on the spur of Slieve-na-maddy (*sliabh-na-madadh*, the dogs' mountain), which overlooks the point where the river is crossed by the wall of Donard demesne. Towards this spot we direct our steps, and find a stile from which a rough path descends through the fir-woods. The path keeps close to the stream, which plunges downward in a succession of exquisite cascades and deep clear pools. On reaching a level avenue, we cross the bridge on the right and turn again down the hill to our left, past the famed Donard Falls, past Donard Lodge, and about an hour and a quarter after leaving the summit of Commedagh we find ourselves again in the street of Newcastle, our four-hours' mountain walk completed.

II. - Newcastle to Slieve Bearnagh, Slieve Meel-more, and Slieve Meel-beg.

Distances:—Road, 13¼ miles; mountain road, 2 miles; mountain, 3½ miles; highest and lowest points—sea level, 2,394, 1,700, 2,237, 1,900, 2,310, 1,670, and 1,900 feet, sea level.

BY car or on foot we make our way from Newcastle through Bryansford and on along the edge of Tollymore Park. A fantastic tapered structure like a church spire, ornamented with split boulders from the river-bed, on the right side of the road beyond a pair of gate pillars of the same style, marks the boundary between the estates of the Earl of Roden and Marquess of Downshire. The woods of Moneyscalp now rise on our right; on the left we clear the end of Tollymore Park, and get a glorious view of the mountains across the Shimna valley—the grand form of Slieve Bearnagh with its diadem of crags towering in the centre, with the two Slieve Meels on its right, and on its left Slieve-na-glogh and Slieve Corragh. As we pass Moneyscalp Plantation (*muine sceilp*, the shrubbery of the chasm) the Rathfriland road turns off on the right. Just beyond it we keep to the left where the road forks, down the hill and across the picturesque Shimna River, and up the slope on the opposite side to where, on the left-hand side, beside a cottage, a wooden gate opens on a rough mountain road. Here, if we are driving, we leave our car, with instructions to meet us again in the Deer's Meadow, where the turf-road comes down from Ott Mountain, three miles further on. Striking up the rough road, we are soon out on a wild moor, bright with Heather and Gorse and strewn with grey boulders, with the Trassey Burn singing among its rocks on our right. The ascent is tolerably steep till we reach the Spellack (*speilic*, a splintery rock), a spur of Slieve Meel-more which overhangs the valley in a towering precipice. The Hare's Gap, our first stopping-place, is now straight in front,

with a low cliff overhanging it on either side. For a while the valley slopes but little, and the stream flows lazily through long pools where tiny trout are darting in myriads over the white granite sand. A savage glen which separates Slieve Bearnagh from Slieve Meel-more now opens to the right; our road ends, and we have a rough half-hour's climb through heather and rocks to the **HARE'S GAP** (1,300 feet). Notice on the right a cliff of granite, so seamed with parallel joints that it resembles the stratified Ordovicians of the lower grounds. From the Hare's Gap we see in front the head of the valley of the Kilkeel River—a wilderness of brown bog, with the green dome of Slieve Donard towering above the lower mountains. On the hillside a little beyond and above us on the left are the Diamond Rocks, which we shall visit on our next ramble. Behind us, the menacing Spellack impends over the valley up which we have come; beyond, the checkered fields of Down lie spread, with Lough Island Reavy reflecting the blueness of the sky; and, if the day be clear, the long white line of Lough Neagh in the far distance. We now tackle the ascent of the grand "Broken Mountain," **SLIEVE BEARNAGH** (*sliabh bernach*, gapped mountain). Facing to the right, we keep round a precipitous escarpment with a flat top dotted with bushes of Dwarf Juniper, and see before us the smooth steep slope which leads to the rocky crest 1,100 feet above us. Our course lies straight up the hill. As we proceed, vegetation becomes more and more stunted. Alpine Club-moss and Dwarf Willow grow among the wind-shorn turf. We reach the northern crest, and see the highest point crowned with gigantic rocks of granite; a little further on, and we are soon seated on the topmost pinnacle, 2,394 feet, enjoying the extensive mountain view that spreads on every hand. The granite crags of the summit plunge down on the eastern side at a high angle, and are inaccessible from that direction; but on the west side the turf runs up almost to the highest

knoll. The view embraces every mountain of importance in the range. To the south-west Lough Shannagh is conspicuous, lying amid a brown waste of heather. To the left of it, Bencrom (*stooping mountain*) shows its curiously broken outline hanging over the Mill River in an abrupt cliff. From Bearnagh our course lies due west to the *col* (1,700 feet) between that mountain and Slieve Meel-more. The descent is soon accomplished, and we bend a little to the right up the steep opposing slope. Near the summit there is a vein of massive amethyst, and a short distance off pretty amethyst crystals occur in cavities of the granite. We may climb to the summit of **SLIEVE MEEL-MORE** (*sliabh mael-mór*, the great bare mountain, 2,237 feet), and thence into the hollow and up again to the summit of **SLIEVE MEEL-BEG** (*sliabh-mael-beg*, the little bare mountain, 2,310 feet), enjoying the short springy turf, the fresh breeze, and extensive views that are always to be obtained by following the summit-line; or we may save some climbing by keeping to the left along the upper portion of the slope of both of these mountains. In either case, it is worth climbing to the top of Slieve Loughshannagh, the hill beyond Slieve Meel-beg, as it overlooks Lough Shannagh, and commands a very fine panorama of the whole range. Thence we push westward, making for the northern slope of Ott Mountain, where we pick up a turf-road that takes us down to the county road in the Deer's Meadow. From this point a walk or drive of nine miles brings us back to Newcastle *via* Bryansford.

III.—Newcastle to Chimney Rock, The Castles, Diamond Rocks, and Hare's Gap.

Distances:—Road, 7¾ miles; mountain road, 1½ miles; mountain, 6 miles; highest and lowest points—sea level, 2,152 feet, sea level.

FROM Newcastle we drive or walk to the Bloody Bridge —2½ miles (for route and description see p. 179), and, turning our backs on the sea, we strike up the fine mountain glen, with Slieve Donard towering on the right and Chimney Rock Mountain on the left. The stream roars over ledges of rock and among great boulders, now a foaming cascade, now a deep still pool of clear green water. To the right, half-a-mile up the valley, the Glen Fofanny River (*foffenagh*, full of thistles) runs up between the spurs of Crossone (*cros Eoghain*, Eoghan's or Owen's cross, 1,777 feet) on the left and Millstone Mountain (1,496 feet) on the right. The stream foams hissing over great sloping floors of granite, and through dark chasms that it has carved out of the hard rock. As we approach the head of the valley, we bend to the left, making for the torrs that rise on the summit of **CHIMNEY ROCK MOUNTAIN.** The highest point (2,152 feet) is soon reached, and we scramble over the great masses of granite which crown the mountain, and note the curious circular pools of rain-water which, according to tradition, never run dry, though exposed to the wind and sun all day long.

Now we descend north-west, with the summit of Slieve Donard on our right front, cross the *col* at the head of the Bloody Burn, and work north-westward round the head of the Annalong River valley. The precipitous face of Slieve Beg, split from top to bottom by the chasm called the "Devil's Coach-road," looks very fine across the depression on our left. We pass the saddle between Donard and Commedagh. Our course lies still westward, along the southern slopes of Commedagh, to where **"THE CASTLES"** rear their bastions and minarets on



CASTLES OF COMMEI
'elch's Irish Views.

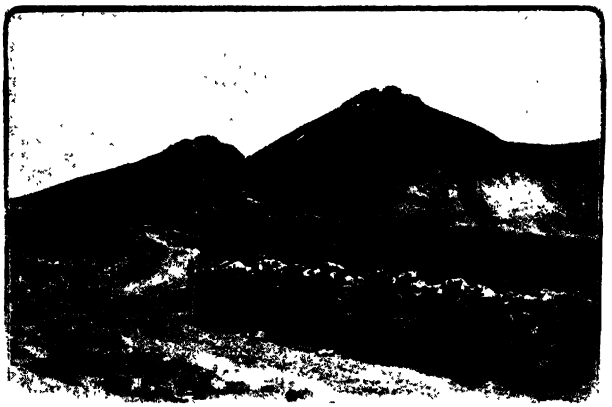
the steep mountain-side. This is one of the most picturesque spots in all Mourne. The Castles are formed by the peculiar jointing of the granite. A strong series of vertical and horizontal joints traversing the rock, which is being slowly disintegrated by frost and rain, are accountable for the series of pinnacles and solid vertical walls that here withstand the elements. The Dwarf Juniper fringes their base, and hurrying streamlets pour downwards through deep gorges. The Castles command a view of the whole glen of the Annalong River, and the precipitous mountains that overhang it on the west; Slieve Bingian towers in rocky magnificence at the bottom of the valley.

Our next destination is the Diamond Rocks This is an easy walk of 1½ mile through the heart of the mountains. We continue our westerly course, and, crossing the low *col* which connects Slieve Beg with Slieve Commedagh, we enter the watershed of the Kilkeel River. A sheep-track which runs horizontally along the side of Slieve Corragh and Slieve-na-glogh assists our progress, and we rapidly approach the Hare's Gap, towards which the path trends. Slieve Bearnagh is now the dominant feature of the landscape, towering up across the valley on our left. A short climb will bring us to the **DIAMOND ROCKS**, which lie on the southern slope of Slieve-na-glogh, 700 yards from the Hare's Gap, and three hundred feet above it. In this place the granite is full of cavities a few inches in diameter, and these cavities are beautifully lined with crystals of smoky quartz, orthoclase, and black mica, with an occasional topaz and beryl; without difficulty, specimens may be procured which furnish an interesting memento of our visit. From the Diamond Rocks our easiest though not shortest route home lies through the Hare's Gap, and down the Trassey valley by the road which we have already traversed. If we prefer it, we may make straight north-east for Newcastle over the summit of Slieve-na-glogh, across the glen of the Spinkwee River, and round the shoulder of Slieve-na-brock.

IV.—Newcastle to Slieve Bingian, Blue Lough, and Cove Lough.

Distances:—Road, 8½ miles; mountain road, 3 miles; mountain, 7½ miles; highest and lowest points—sea level, 2,449, 1,100, and 1,900 feet, sea level.

WE take the morning mail-car from Newcastle for Annalong (for description of route see p. 179), and, dismounting a quarter of a mile beyond Glasdrumman House (6 miles), turn to the right up a by-road that runs inland, and bending sharply to the left at 1½ mile brings us to Dunny Water Bridge, on the Annalong River. Crossing



SLIEVE BINGIAN FROM THE SOUTH.

the river, we strike to the right over the moor, keeping away from the stream in order to pick up a mountain road which runs up the valley on this side. For two miles this rough road leads us into the mountains, the river on our right, the huge shoulders of Slieve Bingian on our left. Everywhere the granite-cutters are at work, and the clinking of their chisels rings musically in the air. The main valley now turns from south-west to north, and we

get a fine view right up to its head, where rise Slieve Donard and Slieve Commedagh. The road continues north-west, crosses a tributary stream, and brings us to a rocky knoll, over which we climb. Storm and rain have swept its rounded top clear of turf and of vegetation, and left a desolate expanse of granite boulders and gravel. Pushing across this, we come in sight of the **BLUE LOUGH** (1,100 feet)—a calm round tarn of remarkable picturesqueness. Above it on the north looms the bare precipitous slope of Slieve Lamagan (2,306 feet), and southward a spur of Slieve Bingian overhangs the lake in a high cliff, at the southern end of which the stream that drains Lough Bingian pours down the steep slope in a long line of hissing foam. On the flank of Slieve Lamagan the granite-cutters busily ply their tools, and the distant clinking of steel on granite is blended with the rustle of the waterfall. It is a beautiful and impressive scene that surrounds us, and we are well content to sit on a boulder on the lake-shore for a while, and let our eyes wander along the cliff-lines, and upwards towards the pinnacles of Slieve Bingian far above. The attraction of that lofty summit is irresistible, and, leaving the less energetic members of our party to muse by the lake-side, we strike southward, and climb the steep slope down which rushes the stream from Lough Bingian. A sharp ascent of 250 feet brings us to the edge of that lonely tarn, lying on a kind of shelf on the side of the mountain, and fringed, like the Blue Lough, with the pretty nodding flower-stems of the Water-Lobelia. Along the edge of the shelf, where a precipice overlooks the valley below, a number of large perched blocks of granite are conspicuous. The crest of **SLIEVE BINGIAN** (*sliabh binneann*, the mountain of the sharp peak; pronounced *binyin*) is now right above us to the southward; on the west a high rocky ridge (2,161 feet) impends over the lake. We make straight for the summit. The turf is tolerably smooth, and the thousand-foot climb is soon accomplished: we

reach the storm-swept crags, and are well rewarded for our toil by the grand view that extends on every hand—the whole mountain range to the north and west, the Irish Sea and Isle of Man to the east, with the low coast-line trending from Annalong and Kilkeel away southward into Louth, and, if the day be clear, the island of Lambay and Hill of Howth in Co. Dublin, and the Sugar-loaf in Wicklow. In the immediate foreground, the rocky crest of the mountain, which runs half-a-mile north-westward from the peak on which we stand, attracts our attention—a series of huge granite rocks, which, harder than the surrounding mass, endure the onslaught of the elements, like sea-stacks on a stormy coast.

The return past Lough Bingian to the Blue Lough is soon accomplished, and now our course lies round the eastern flank of Slieve Lamagan (local pronunciation *Lavigan*) and up the glen of the Annalong River. We pass a busy colony of granite-cutters at work on the rough slope, splitting blocks of stone into slices with wedges, and dressing them into window-sills and kerb-stones. Down on the right the river has cut for itself a gorge through a large moraine left by a retreating glacier. Above this barrier of stones and gravel we find, in the valley-bottom, beds of fine pink and grey clays laid down in the lake which extended here before the stream cut for itself a passage through the obstruction. Further on, a vertical cliff of massive granite overlooks the stream. At its southern end is a wide-mouthed cave, which opens through a spur of rock to the mountain side behind, but the passage is almost closed by large fallen blocks. On the flat shelf behind this cliff lies Cove Lough, a small tarn rapidly assuming the appearance of a swamp. Both the lough and **COVE MOUNTAIN**, which rises above it, are named from the cave above-mentioned. Harris, in his *County Down* (1744), calls Cove Mountain *Slieve Snavan*,* the Creeping Mountain, and gives a picturesque

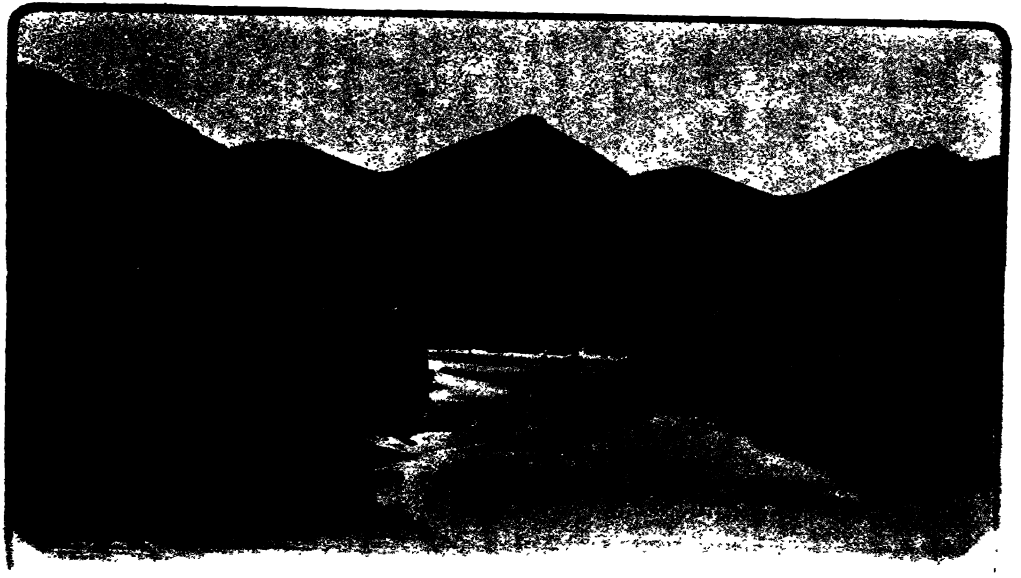
* A contemporary map of County Down (1767) applies this name to Slieve Commedagh.

account of this cave and lake, in which he peoples the "frightful chamber" with a "vast number of Hawks, Jack-daws, Owls, &c.," and praises highly the view from the summit of the cliff. This ancient description still figures in modern guide-books. From here to the *col* between Donard and Commedagh is rough ground. We will get rather smoother walking by crossing to the east side of the glen. In either case the exertion is well compensated by the fine views we obtain of the precipitous eastern faces of Cove Mountain and Slieve Beg. A sharp climb at the head of the valley brings us to the well-known *col*, and we descend the valley of the Glen River and the wooded slopes of Donard Lodge to Newcastle.

V.—Newcastle to The Happy Valley, Bencrom, Slieve-na-glogh, and Legawherry.

Distances:—Road, 12 miles (5½ if we start from Kilkeel); mountain road, 2½ miles; mountain, 6½ miles; highest and lowest points—sea level, 1,900 feet, sea level.

THIS is undoubtedly the finest walk in the Mourne Mountains, and it involves the crossing of the range at its widest point from south to north. Our starting-place is Colligan Bridge, which spans the Kilkeel River two miles south-south-west of Slieve Bingian and 3½ miles due north of Kilkeel. This point is reached by an 11-mile drive from Newcastle, *viâ* Glassdrumman and Dunny Water Bridge. If we start from Kilkeel we reduce this distance to 4½ miles. From Colligan Bridge a rough road runs up the east bank of the river for 2½ miles, and materially helps us on our way. Tramping up this road, now worn into ruts, and deep with mud or dust as the case may be, on account of the operations connected with the new waterworks for the ever-increasing city of Belfast, we soon enter the grandest mountain glen in the district. A huge moraine blocks its lower end—a great ridge of stones and gravel thrown across the valley by some old-time glacier. The river has now cut through



LOOKING UP THE HAPPY VALLEY.
Welsh Irish Views

one end of it, but the level alluvial plain that extends from it for two miles up-stream speaks of the time when this natural dam stood intact, and banked up the waters behind it in a long, narrow lake. Soon a lake will again occupy the valley, for this is the spot selected for the new reservoir of the Belfast Water Commissioners. A massive embankment of clay will replace the ancient glacial dam, and once more water will fill the glen, from Moolieve to Miner's Hole. Our road leads along the edge of the stream, which wanders through the boggy flat of the **HAPPY VALLEY** in a succession of curving pools. On our right, Slieve Bingian rises from the narrow glen in a steep uniform slope fully two thousand feet in height. On the left, Slieve-na-glogh (not to be confounded with the better-known Slieve-na-glogh near Hare's Gap) towers in a precipitous escarpment to a height of 1,450 feet. Straight in front, at the end of the narrow level valley, Doan Mountain rises, crowned with a peculiar knob which renders it easily recognisable. Two miles from Colligan Bridge, boggy pools lie at the foot of the Slieve Bingian slope. These yield several rare plants, such as the Intermediate Sundew *(Drosera intermedia)* and Water Lobelia *(L. Dortmanna)*. Near these pools several spa wells ooze out of the mountain side. Half-a-mile further on, we reach the point where Miner's Hole River and Shannagh River flow in from the westward. The valley bends eastward now, the flat bottom ends, and with it our road, and the strange form of **BENCROM**, the "Stooping Mountain," appears overhanging the west side of the stream, like a mountain split in half. The Bencrom River is next seen, pouring into the main stream, which from Miner's Hole upwards is called the Mill River. Soon we pass under the towering cliffs of the Stooping Mountain, intersected by a great dyke of porphyritic felstone, and stop to admire a magnificent gorge on the left, where a stream that drains the bog lying between Bearnagh and Meel-beg plunges down

many hundred feet into the valley which we are traversing. Slieve Bearnagh now opens on our left, and the head of the valley in front, closed by Slieve-na-glogh and Slieve Corragh. We shall gain time by leaving the rough valley-bottom, and keeping along the flanks of Bearnagh towards the Hare's Gap. From that place we vary the return to Newcastle by keeping on past the Diamond Rocks, and up to the summit of Slieve-na-glogh—an easy climb. Descending steeply, and keeping to the right, we reach one of the most picturesque spots in Mourne, the **POT OF LEGAWHERRY** (*leg-a-choire*, the hollow of the cauldron), at the head of the valley of the Spinkwee River. This is a deep depression, surrounded on three sides by cliffs and pinnacles of granite. Shanslieve, Slieve Commedagh, and Slieve Corragh all plunge down a thousand feet into the lonely grassy hollow, where the never-ending rustling of the streamlets alone breaks the silence. We are now within four miles of Newcastle, which we reach by keeping along the slopes to the right round the northern shoulder of Slieve-na-brock (*sliabh-na-mbroc*, the Badger's Mountain). Below us is a flat basin, fringed by the top of the Tollymore woods. The rocks here are much glaciated from west 10° north, and the ground is strewn with large granite boulders. We descend by the Tullybrannigan River into the plain below, between the woods of Tollymore and Donard Lodge.

VI.—Newcastle to Yellow Water, Lough Shannagh, and Poulaphouca.

Distances:—Road, 18½ miles *vid* Deer's Meadow, 19 miles *vid* Annalong; mountain road, 4½ miles; mountain, 2½ miles; highest and lowest points—sea level, 1,700 feet, sea level.

THIS, like our last ramble, is a crossing of the mountain range from south to north. Our starting-point is Yellow Water Bridge, on the Kilkeel-Hilltown road, to the

south of Slieve Muck. From Newcastle this place is reached by a 13½-mile drive *viâ* Glasdrumman and Colligan Bridge, or by a 13-mile drive by the more hilly but more picturesque route *viâ* Bryansford and Deer's Meadow. We start along a mountain road that turns northward a couple of hundred yards below the bridge. This is an easy way into the mountains. The road runs along the east bank of the Yellow Water, and over wild undulating moorland. On our left, the high rocky scarp of Slieve Muck (1,931, 2,198 feet) impends, looking very imposing. Presently we cross Miner's Hole River. Carn Mountain (1,919 feet) appears in front, and our road comes to an end among extensive turf-cuttings, on the edge of which lies the beautiful **LOUGH SHANNAGH** (*loch sionnach*, the foxes' lake—36 acres, 1,350 feet elevation). This is the largest lake in the Mourne Mountains. It is picturesquely situated on a kind of broad shelf, which drops abruptly to the eastward into the Mill River valley. On the west, Carn Mountain rises steeply over the lake. Slieve Bearnagh towers on the north-east, and on every hand mountains rise peak beyond peak. The northern margin of the lake is occupied by a lovely beach of pure granite sand, and here a bathe in the brown water is quite irresistible. The water-plants of the lake are exactly the same as those of the other tarns of the Mournes—the Water-Lobelia, Shore-weed, Quillwort, and delicate floating form of the Rush *Juncus supinus*. Visitors of superabundant energy will do well to ascend Doan (*dubhan*, a hook—2,000 feet), the isolated peak lying due west of the lake, as it commands a lovely view of the surrounding country—lake, moor, and rocky crest.

Between Lough Shannagh and Slieve Bearnagh extends the worst bit of ground in all Mourne, a deep wet bog, seamed with a network of ruts, six feet deep and full of stones, carved by rain and wind in the peaty soil. We avoid this by keeping northward from the lake, and working along the slopes towards Slieve Meel-beg. Our

destination is the deep defile between Bearnagh and Meel-more, and the higher we keep along the mountain-sides, the smoother walking we will get. We pass a small boggy tarn, known, like its larger brother, as the Blue Lough, and swinging round the ridge that joins Meel-more and Meel-beg, we reach the *col* referred to, and look down the wild glen of **POULAPHOUCA** (*pooka's* or *demon's hole*) into the Trassey valley. This glen is beautifully rugged. The left-hand Slieve Meel-more slope is exceedingly steep. and covered with long screes of loose stone. On the opposite, or Slieve Bearnagh side, a series of great joint-planes in the rock have produced bare slopes of granite of prodigious extent, on which neither plant nor animal may obtain a foot-hold. Our course lies straight down the glen, through a wild tangle of heather and boulders, which make walking difficult, and we are glad enough when we join at right angles the Trassey valley. We see to our left the familiar Spellack, and to the right the Hare's Gap, and gain the rough track that leads us down to the county road at Trassey Bridge, whence 5½ miles brings us to Newcastle.

VII.—Hilltown to Pigeon Rock Mountain, Eagle Mountain, and Pierce's Castle.

Distances:—Road, 8¼ miles; mountain road, 1¾ miles; mountain, 3 miles; highest and lowest points—400, 1,749, 1,286, 2,084, and 400 feet above sea level.

THE cliff-ranges of Pigeon Rock Mountain and Eagle Mountain are well worth a visit, and this excursion is easily carried out from the breezy village of Hilltown. From Newcastle these spots are far removed, and to reach them from that centre involves 24 miles of driving, as well as some five miles of mountain-walking—a long excursion, but one that may be easily carried out by an early start. Starting from Hilltown, our route lies up the glen of the

Bann by the Kilkeel road, past Hen Mountain and Kinnahalla wood, between Spelga and Slievenamiskan (*sliabh-na-mioscan*, the mountain of the carns), and across the lonely Deer's Meadow to where the Pigeon Rock cliffs impend over the road. Near the southern end a dizzy sheep-path will conduct us to the summit. These cliffs are full of interest to the geologist, furnishing, as they do, a clear insight into the history of the local rocks. The oldest beds are the crumpled and metamorphosed Ordovician grits, which may be seen capping the granite of which the cliff is mainly composed. The grits are penetrated by a series of basalt dykes, newer than the grits, since they cut through them, but older than the granite, since they are cut off abruptly at its margin. Next in order comes the granite itself, which, forcing its way upward in mass, has carried up on its surface the old sedimentary rocks of Ordovician times. Lastly, we find that since the cooling of the granite fresh eruptions have taken place, for a second set of basaltic dykes are seen which cut through both the granite and the grits.



CLIFF ON PIGEON ROCK MOUNTAIN, Showing granite capped by slates, both penetrated by two basaltic dykes. (After *Geol. Survey Memoir.*)

From the summit of Pigeon Rock Mountain—a broad expanse of dry moor—we see Slieve Maganmore (1,837 feet) rising to the westward, and to the left of it the lofty twin points of Eagle Mountain (2,084 feet) and Shanslieve (2,055 feet): below the former the great precipice that is our next destination is clearly visible. Southward lies the wide valley of the White Water, with an extensive view of land and sea beyond. Our route lies westward, around the southern slope of Maganmore. Thence we cross Windy

Gap, and turn southward to the magnificent cliff of EAGLE MOUNTAIN. This is a rugged towering precipice, actually overhanging in places, and decked with flowers and grasses. Here the Peregrine Falcon year by year makes its eyrie, and brings out its fledglings unmolested. In the shady nooks of the cliff, ferns flourish exceedingly; and so sheltered and damp is the spot, that the tiny Filmy Fern (*Hymenophyllum Wilsoni*) clothes the rocks with dense mats of wiry rhizomes and dark green fronds. Everywhere on the ledges and at the base of the cliffs the Great Wood-Rush grows in superb luxuriance.

From this impressive spot, if we do not wish to ascend to the summit of Eagle Mountain, we turn north-east through Windy Gap, with Slieve Maganmore on our right, and then, bending sharp to the left, make a wide semi-circle round the head of the valley of the Rocky River, past the little Shan Lough to the Castle Bog, where the great boss of granite called Pierce's Castle stands up conspicuously. Here turf-cutting is in busy progress, and numbers of peasants are hard at work saving their winter's fuel. A rough path will now lead us northward down the mountain side to the Rostrevor-Hilltown road, where we turn to the right, and, keeping to the left where the road forks, a walk of 2¾ miles brings us again to Hilltown.

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No. 2—BELFAST TO BANCOR, returning from DONAGHADEE.

1st Class, 3/-; 2nd Class, 2/6; 3rd Class, 2/-

There are two roads between Bangor and Donaghadee—that *via* the coast, passing through the villages of Groomsport and Orlock is the favourite, but the road across country is the shorter, both are, however, equally good.

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The Cycle trip between Newtownards and Donaghadee may be made either by the Six Road Ends, the most direct route or by Crown's Island, or by Millisle the most circuitous. A pleasant detour may be made *via* Mountstewart, Carrowdore, and Millisle to Donaghadee. Distance all out fourteen miles.

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The road from Ballynahinch to Hillsboro' passes through a portion of County Down celebrated for its high state of cultivation.

No. 5—BELFAST TO BALLYNAHINCH, returning from DROMORE (C.N.R.)

1st Class, 3/3; 2nd Class, 2/9; 3rd Class, 2/3.

The Cyclist may take the direct road to Dromore, or, if time permit, proceed *via* the Spa, thence to Dromara, and on to Dromore.

No. 6—BELFAST TO NEWTOWNARDS, returning from DOWNPATRICK.

1st Class, 4/6; 2nd Class, 3/6; 3rd Class, 2/6.

The Tourist in this case has the choice of two very attractive routes from Newtownards to Portaferry—one *via* Strangford Lough road, passing through Mountstewart, Greyabbey, and Kircubbin; or by taking the road from Newtownards to Millisle he can skirt the Irish Sea, passing Ballywalter, Ballyhalbert, Portavegie, Cloghy, and Quintin Castle to Portaferry. At this point the ferry must be availed of to reach Strangford, thence by a charming road to Downpatrick, where an hour or two can be spent visiting the ancient Cathedral, the huge Danish Rath, &c.

No. 7—BELFAST TO DONAGHADEE, returning from DOWNPATRICK.

1st Class, 5/-; 2nd Class, 4/-; 3rd Class, 3/-

In this Cycle journey the same choice is afforded as from Newtownards, the distance being a few miles more.

No. 8—BELFAST to BALLYNAHINCH, returning from BANBRIDGE (G.N.R.

1st Class, 5/-; 2nd Class, 4/-; 3rd Class, 3/-

The most direct route for the Cyclist in this case is through the Spa district and Dromara, but several deviations can be made through a most picturesque district.

No. 9—BELFAST TO NEWCASTLE, returning from HILLSBORO' (G.N.R.)

1st Class, 5/-; 2nd Class, 4/-; 3rd Class, 3/-

The Cyclist may choose a variety of roads in this outing, the more popular will, however, be found *via* Dundrum, Clough, Seaforde, and Ballynahinch, thence to Hillsboro', or *via* Castlewellan and Dromara, the more direct route. On this latter route a very fine view of the whole range of the Mourne Mountains may be had from Dechomet and the famous Slieve Croob, immediately at the base of which will be found the source of the river Lagan

No. 10—BELFAST TO DONACHADEE, returning from ARDCLASS.

1st Class, 5/6; 2nd Class, 4/6; 3rd Class, 3/6.

The road between Donaghadee and Portaferry has been already described from Millisle in Tour No. 6. On crossing the ferry from Portaferry to Strangford the road to Ardglass will be found almost straight, passing through one of the best cultivated portions of the county. Before leaving Strangford a visit ought to be paid to the ruins of the numerous castles in the neighbourhood, all beautifully situated, commanding most enchanting views of Strangford Lough and of the famous entrance, "The Strangford Narrows."

No. 11—BELFAST TO BALLYNAHINCH, returning from NEWCASTLE.

1st Class, 6/-; 2nd Class, 5/-; 3rd Class, 4/-

The Cycle route has been already referred to in No. 9. The roads are in excellent order.

No. 12—BELFAST to NEWCASTLE, returning from BALLYRONEY (C.N.R.)

1st Class, 7/6; 2nd Class, 6/-; 3rd Class, 4/6.

The journey by road is through Bryansford and Castlewellan, and may be made to include a ride through Tollymore Park, which by the courtesy of the noble owner, Earl Roden, is open to the public on Tuesdays and Fridays, or a ride through Castlewellan Park, the seat of Earl Annesley, who is equally generous, from which may be had a magnificent panoramic view of the Mourne Range and of the splendid Bay of Dundrum. The waters of Lough Island Reavy are passed, and thence through a highly picturesque and delightful district of country. The direct road is about 10 miles, but with the deviations suggested double that distance may be covered

No. 13—BELFAST to NEWCASTLE, returning from POYNTZPASS (C.N.R.)

1st Class, 7/6; 2nd Class, 6/-; 3rd Class, 4/6.

The direct route is through Bryansford to the Rathfriland Road, near the Square to the South of Castlewellan, thence to Rathfriland and direct to Poyntzpass, about 25 miles. Deviations may be made as in Tour No. 12, and a detour to Hilltown before reaching Rathfriland will well repay the Cyclist if the weather be fine.

No. 14—BELFAST to NEWCASTLE, returning from WARRENPOINT (C.N.R.)

1st Class, 8/-; 2nd Class, 6/6; 3rd Class, 5/-

The Cyclist has choice of two routes from Newcastle, that *via* the Coast road through Annalong and Kilkeel, passing Ballyedmond and Killowen. A nice detour may be made, if time permit, to Greencastle. The journey may be made *via* the Mountain road through Bryansford, from thence skirting the western side of the Mourne Range through Rostrevor and on to Warrenpoint. But the Cyclist who desires to obtain a more intimate acquaintance with the grand range of mountains should take the Western Mountain road as far south as the Hen Mountain, thence take the south-easterly road into Kilkeel, passing Cock Mountain, Pigeon Rock, Eagle Mountain, and a score of other lofty peaks, through scenery of the most sublime description. The Coast road may then be taken to Warrenpoint.

Tickets issued at above Fares may be made available for return after date of issue, or from Saturday till Monday, on the holder presenting such ticket at the Booking Office of the Station from which the return journey is made and paying about one-eighth additional fare, and having the ticket so endorsed.

JAMES PINION, General Manager.

QUEEN'S QUAY TERMINUS, BELFAST.